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# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT



ADVANCED  
BIOENERGY<sub>LLC</sub>

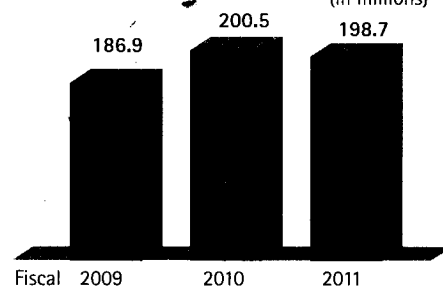
## Performance Highlights

Advanced BioEnergy, LLC is headquartered in Bloomington, Minnesota and operates three dry-mill ethanol production plants in Nebraska and South Dakota.

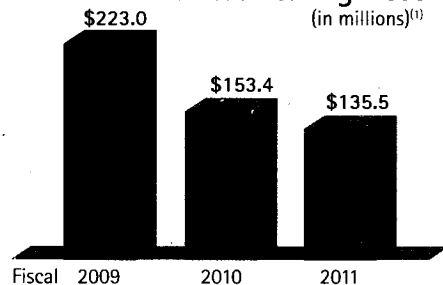
In fiscal 2011, our plants produced nearly 200 million gallons of denatured ethanol, over 2.8 million pounds of corn oil, more than 592,000 tons of DDG's (dried distillers grains) and ground over 70 million bushels of corn. Our production of denatured ethanol should remain at or near 200 million gallons in future fiscal years. We are focused on improving overall production efficiencies related to energy use and corn to ethanol yield. In August 2011, we added corn oil extraction to our Fairmont, Nebraska plant and expect to have our second corn oil extraction system commissioned in April 2012 at our Aberdeen, South Dakota plant. In addition to our oil extraction projects we are increasing the fermentation capacity at our Fairmont plant. This project is scheduled to be completed in April 2012.

Over the past two fiscal years we have reduced our overall interest bearing debt by more than \$87.5 million. Total interest bearing debt at September 30, 2009 was \$223.0 million compared to \$135.5 million, or \$0.69 per gallon at September 30, 2011. We continue to use excess cash beyond our daily working capital needs to reduce our overall debt position as required by our senior lending agreements in Nebraska and South Dakota.

### Denatured Ethanol Production (in millions)

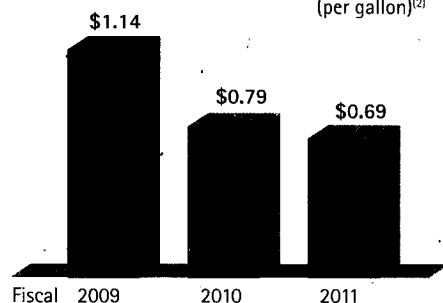


### Interest Bearing Debt (in millions)<sup>(1)</sup>

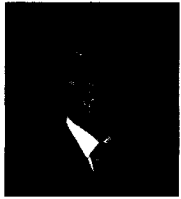


(1) Includes accrued and unpaid interest on SD debt.

### Interest Bearing Debt (per gallon)<sup>(2)</sup>



(2) Calculated on Estimated Production of 195 million gallons per year.



***Richard R. Peterson, CEO***



## **To Our Unit Holders:**

### **Fiscal 2011**

The past fiscal year has been one of both successes and challenges for ABE. As an industry, ethanol experienced large increases in commodity prices and faced uncertainty related to the elimination of the VEETC credit. As a company, we completed the successful installation of assets to improve the profitability of our business, and were challenged with issues specific to geographic markets as well as unseasonable weather conditions.

Our plant in Fairmont, Nebraska had a record production year running at over 115% of nameplate production in Fiscal 2011, while maintaining the highest average corn to ethanol yield in the plant's operating history. Our Fairmont plant continues to benefit from its efficiency as a unit train shipper with short turn times, and a truck market yielding premium pricing for dried distillers grains. As part of our continued effort to increase the profitability of our assets, we installed corn oil extraction at our Fairmont location which began production in August 2011. This project has been a great success and exceeded our expectations with a quick payback in the first six months of operations.

Our South Dakota assets faced a much more challenging environment in Fiscal 2011. We dealt with depressed pricing in the market for distillers grain in South Dakota, and the corn basis advantage we generally see in the South Dakota market was not present in Fiscal 2011. Additionally, our South Dakota plants battled issues related to a summer with record heat and limited plant cooling capacity, which creates challenges in the temperature sensitive ethanol process. However, despite the challenges in Fiscal 2011, we have also made a lot of progress. This progress has come in the form of process changes, the use of new technologies, consistency in operating parameters, and management changes. We continue to see the benefits of these improvements and expect good performance from the South Dakota assets in Fiscal 2012 and beyond.

### **Looking Ahead**

As a company, we recognize that efficiency drives profitability. We are focused on business initiatives that will lead to increased profitability and ultimately, more value for our unit holders. We have made great strides toward improved corn to ethanol yields at each of our facilities over the last several months, and continue to search out efficient ways to get more from our inputs. We are currently installing an eighth fermentation tank at our Fairmont plant which will increase our fermentation capacity by more than 14%. We expect the additional fermenter to generate improvements in corn to ethanol yield while maintaining current production rates, as well as the potential for additional production capacity. Our second installation of corn oil extraction is also well underway at our plant in Aberdeen, South Dakota, with an expected completion date of early April 2012, which will allow us to gain more value from the co-products we produce.

We continue to receive inquiries regarding cash distributions to our unit holders. Due to the current structure of our debt agreements, until we meet certain thresholds for each of our Senior Lenders, the majority of excess cash is going directly toward the payment of mandatory debt sweeps, limiting our ability to consider cash distributions to unit holders. We realize the importance that cash distributions played in the decision to invest in ABE for many of our unit holders. However, our focus over the past three fiscal years has been on the reduction of total debt, investment in new technology

to improve profitability, and building working capital to effectively operate in a volatile commodity environment. Cash in excess of our working capital needs is applied first to required debt service and sweep payments, and only after those requirements have been met are we able to consider distribution payments.

The improvements we make in the profitability of our plants will continue to benefit our capital structure as we pay down long-term debt, with every dollar of debt paid creating additional value for our unit holders. In Fiscal 2011, we paid off \$17.9 million in long-term debt including mandatory principal and debt sweep payments. Additionally, we made debt sweep payments in December of 2011 (first quarter of Fiscal 2012) of \$7.3 million. Based on current projections, we expect our consolidated long-term debt level to reach approximately \$100 million by the end of calendar 2012; a remarkable improvement from the debt levels of over \$220 million we faced only a few years ago. We also have a strong working capital position which allows us to weather market volatility. At the end of Fiscal 2011, our consolidated working capital was \$27.7 million and had increased to \$36.2 million by the end of December 2011.

The start of our fiscal 2012 (October 2011) saw an industry with strong margins as a result of strong ethanol demand. This was primarily fueled by the ethanol VEETC and biodiesel blender's credit which expired on December 31, 2011, along with the 54 cpg tariff on imported ethanol, causing production to rise to meet increased near-term demand. This sharp increase in demand brought about sharp increases in inventory levels as we moved into January 2012. High ethanol inventories post VEETC, combined with a seasonally sluggish gasoline demand, drove a sharp decline in margins in the second half of December 2011 and continued into the first calendar quarter of 2012, which is generally our weakest quarter even without these additional factors.

We continue to experience depressed margins, and expect tight to negative margins to continue into April as ethanol inventories are depleted and the market is challenged with returning balance to supply and demand. We expect stronger margins as we approach the summer driving season and balance returns to the market. The expectation that Brazilian ethanol will hit California in 2012 will be an additional challenge to the ethanol market. However, we expect 2012 ethanol demand to be supported by the continued adoption of E15 by the market, exports of ethanol, and additional blender pump installations providing for mid-level blends which will continue to drive new demand.

We know the future of our company will be faced with continued market volatility and uncertainty around potential legislative changes that could affect the ethanol industry. However, we believe we are well-positioned to meet the challenges of the months ahead through practical risk management strategies, intelligent operation of our plants, and the addition of new technologies as they make sense for our business.

We are excited and optimistic about the future of ABE and would like to thank all of our constituents for their continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Peterson', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Richard R. Peterson  
CEO

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
Washington, DC 20549

**Form 10-K**

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)  
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

Commission file number: 000-52421

**ADVANCED BIOENERGY, LLC**

(Exact name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Delaware  
(State or Other Jurisdiction of  
Incorporation or Organization)

20-2281511  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

8000 Norman Center Drive, Suite 610  
Bloomington, MN 55437  
(763) 226-2701

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number,  
including area code, of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:  
None

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:  
Membership Units

SEC  
Mail Processing  
Section  
FEB 27 2012  
Washington, DC  
123

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes ☐ No ☒

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act. Yes ☐ No ☒

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant: (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes ☒ No ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files.) Yes ☒ No ☐

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. ☒

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer ☐

Accelerated filer ☐

Non-accelerated filer ☒ (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes ☐ No ☒

Our membership units are not publicly traded; therefore, our public float is not measurable.

As of December 1, 2011, the number of outstanding units was 24,714,180.

Portions of the registrant's definitive Proxy Statement for the registrant's 2012 Annual Meeting of Members are incorporated by reference into Part III.

**ADVANCED BIOENERGY, LLC**  
**FORM 10-K FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2011**  
**INDEX**

|  | <u>Page</u> |
|--|-------------|
| <b>PART I</b>  |             |
| Item 1. Business .....   | 5           |
| Item 1A. Risk Factors .....  | 13          |
| Item 2. Properties .....   | 25          |
| Item 3. Legal Proceedings .....  | 26          |
| Item 4. [Removed and Reserved] .....   | 26          |
| Item X. Executive Officers of the Registrant .....   | 26          |
| <b>PART II</b>   |             |
| Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Unitholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of<br>Equity Securities ..... | 27          |
| Item 6. Selected Financial Data .....  | 29          |
| Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations ...                            | 30          |
| Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk .....  | 42          |
| Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data .....  | 43          |
| Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure ...                             | 66          |
| Item 9A. Controls and Procedures .....   | 66          |
| Item 9B. Other Information .....   | 67          |
| <b>PART III</b>  |             |
| Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance .....  | 68          |
| Item 11. Executive Compensation .....  | 68          |
| Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Unitholder<br>Matters .....              | 68          |
| Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence .....                                     | 68          |
| Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services .....  | 68          |
| <b>PART IV</b>   |             |
| Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules .....  | 69          |
| SIGNATURES .....   | 70          |
| Exhibit Index .....  | 71          |

## **SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION**

This Annual Report on Form 10-K contains forward-looking statements regarding our business, financial condition, results of operations, performance and prospects. All statements that are not historical or current facts are forward-looking statements and are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, many of which may be beyond our control that may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performances or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Certain of these risks and uncertainties are described in the “Risk Factors” section of this Annual Report on Form 10-K. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the following:

- our operational results are subject to fluctuations in the prices of grain, utilities and ethanol, which are affected by various factors including weather, production levels, supply, demand, changes in technology and government support and regulations;
- our margins can be volatile and could evaporate, which may impact our ability to meet current obligations and debt service requirements at our operating entities;
- our hedging transactions and mitigation strategies could be unsuccessful and could materially harm our results;
- our cash distributions depend upon our future financial and operational performance and will be affected by debt covenants, reserves and operating expenditures;
- current governmental mandated tariffs, credits and standards may be reduced or eliminated;
- alternative fuel additives may be developed that are superior to, or cheaper than, ethanol;
- transportation, storage and blending infrastructure may become impaired, preventing ethanol from reaching markets;
- our operation facilities may experience technical difficulties and not produce the gallons of ethanol expected; and
- our units are subject to a number of transfer restrictions, no public market exists for our units, and we do not expect one to develop.

You can identify forward-looking statements by terms such as “anticipates,” “believes,” “could,” “estimates,” “expects,” “intends,” “may,” “plans,” “potential,” “predicts,” “projects,” “should,” “will,” “would,” and similar expressions intended to identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements reflect our current views with respect to future events, are based on assumptions, and are subject to risks and uncertainties. Given these uncertainties, you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. Also, forward-looking statements represent our estimates and assumptions only as of the date of this report. Except as required by law, we assume no obligation to update any forward-looking statements publicly, or to update the reasons actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in any forward-looking statements, even if new information becomes available in the future. Readers are urged to carefully review and consider the various disclosures made by us in this report and in our other reports filed from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which we refer to as the Commission, that advise interested parties of the risks and factors that may affect our business.

## **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

*Advanced BioEnergy*<sup>™</sup>, our logos and the other trademarks, trade names and service marks of Advanced BioEnergy mentioned in this report are our property. This report also contains trademarks and service marks belonging to other entities.

## **INDUSTRY AND MARKET DATA**

We obtained the industry, market and competitive position data used throughout this report from our own research, studies conducted by third parties, independent industry associations, governmental associations or general publications and other publicly available information. In particular, we have based much of our discussion of the ethanol industry, including government regulation relevant to the industry and forecasted growth in demand, on information published by the Renewable Fuels Association (“RFA”), the national trade association for the U.S. ethanol industry. Because the RFA is a trade organization for the ethanol industry, it may present information in a manner that is more favorable to that industry than would be presented by an independent source. Although we believe these sources are reliable, we have not independently verified the information. Forecasts are particularly likely to be inaccurate, especially over long periods of time.

## **ETHANOL UNITS**

All references in this report to gallons of ethanol are to gallons of denatured ethanol. Denatured ethanol is ethanol blended with 2.0% to 2.5% denaturant, such as gasoline, to render it undrinkable and thus not subject to alcoholic beverage taxes.



## PART I

### ITEM 1. BUSINESS

#### COMPANY OVERVIEW

Advanced BioEnergy, LLC (“Company”, “we”, “our”, “Advanced BioEnergy” or “ABE”) was formed in 2005 as a Delaware limited liability company. Our business consists of producing ethanol and co-products, including wet, modified and dried distillers grains, and corn oil. Ethanol is a renewable, environmentally clean fuel source that is produced at numerous facilities in the United States, mostly in the Midwest. In the U.S., ethanol is produced primarily from corn and then blended with unleaded gasoline in varying percentages. The ethanol industry in the U.S. has grown significantly over the last few years as the use of ethanol reduces harmful auto emissions, enhances octane ratings of the gasoline with which it is blended, offers consumers a cost-effective choice, and decreases the amount of crude oil the U.S. needs to import from foreign sources.

To execute our business plan, we entered into financial arrangements to build and operate an ethanol production facility in Fairmont, Nebraska, and we separately acquired ABE South Dakota, LLC (f/k/a Heartland Grain Fuels, LP) in November 2006, which owned existing ethanol production facilities in Aberdeen and Huron, South Dakota. We commenced construction of our Fairmont, Nebraska plant in June 2006, and commenced operations in November 2007. We commenced construction of our expansion facility in Aberdeen, South Dakota in April 2007, and commenced operations in January 2008. Our production operations are carried out primarily through our operating subsidiaries, ABE Fairmont, LLC (“ABE Fairmont”) which owns and operates the Fairmont, Nebraska plant and ABE South Dakota, LLC (“ABE South Dakota”) which owns and operates ethanol facilities in Aberdeen and Huron, South Dakota.

Operating segments are defined as components of an enterprise for which separate financial information is available that is evaluated regularly by the chief operating decision maker in deciding how to allocate resources and in assessing performance. Based on the related business nature and expected financial results, the Company’s plants are aggregated into one operating segment.

#### FACILITIES

The table below provides a summary of our dry mill ethanol plants in operation as of September 30, 2011:

| Location                  | Opened         | Estimated<br>Annual Ethanol<br>Production<br>(Million gallons) | Estimated<br>Annual<br>Distillers<br>Grains<br>Production(1)<br>(000’s Tons) | Estimated<br>Annual Corn<br>Processed<br>(Million bushels) | Primary<br>Energy Source | Builder |
|---------------------------|----------------|--|--|--|--------------------------|---------|
| Fairmont, NE . . . . .    | November 2007  | 110  | 334  | 39.3   | Natural Gas              | Fagen   |
| Aberdeen, SD(2) . . . . . | December 1992  | 9  | 27   | 3.2  | Natural Gas              | Broin   |
| Aberdeen, SD(2) . . . . . | January 2008   | 44   | 134  | 15.7   | Natural Gas              | ICM     |
| Huron, SD . . . . .       | September 1999 | 32   | 97   | 11.4   | Natural Gas              | ICM     |
| Consolidated . . . . .    |                | <u>195</u>   | <u>592</u>   | <u>69.6</u>  |                          |         |

- (1) Our plants produce and sell wet, modified, and dried distillers grains. The stated quantities are on a fully dried basis operating at full production capacity.
- (2) Our plant at Aberdeen consists of two production facilities that operate on a separate basis.

We believe that the plants are in adequate condition to meet our current and future production goals. We believe that the plants are adequately insured for replacement cost plus related disruption expenditures.

The senior credit facility of the ABE Fairmont plant is secured by a first mortgage on the plant real estate and a security interest lien on the site’s personal property. We also granted a subordinate lien and security

interest to the trustee of the subordinated exempt facilities revenue bonds used to finance the ABE Fairmont plant. We pledged a first-priority security interest in and first lien on substantially all of the assets of the ABE South Dakota plants to the collateral agent for the senior creditor of these plants.

## ETHANOL

Ethanol sales have represented 83.2%, 85.5% and 80.8% of our revenues in the years ended September 30, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. In 2010, the United States produced and consumed 13.2 billion gallons of ethanol representing 9.6% of the 138.0 billion gallons of finished motor gasoline consumed. The United States consumed 7.3 billion gallons, exported 0.7 billion gallons, and produced 8.0 billion gallons of ethanol in the first seven months of 2011. Ethanol is currently blended with gasoline to meet regulatory standards as a clean air additive, an octane enhancer, a fuel extender and as a gasoline alternative.

Ethanol is most commonly sold as E10, the 10 percent blend of ethanol for use in all American automobiles. Increasingly, ethanol is also available as E85, a higher percentage ethanol blend for use in flexible fuel vehicles. To further drive growth in ethanol usage, Growth Energy, an ethanol industry trade association, requested a waiver from the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) to increase the allowable amount of ethanol blended into gasoline from the current 10% level to a 15% level. A final decision was announced on October 13, 2010 which will allow for E15 usage in 2007 and newer vehicles. On January 21, 2011, the EPA expanded E15 usage to 2001 and newer vehicles.

### *The Renewable Fuels Standard*

The Renewable Fuels Standard (“RFS”) is a national program that imposes requirements with respect to the amount of renewable fuel produced and used. The RFS was revised by the EPA in July 2010 (“RFS2”) and applies to refineries, blenders, distributors and importers. We believe the RFS2 program will increase the market for renewable fuels, such as ethanol, as a substitute for petroleum-based fuels. The RFS2 requires that 15.2 billion gallons be sold or dispensed in 2012, increasing to 36.0 billion gallons by 2022, representing 7% of the anticipated gasoline and diesel consumption in 2022. In 2011, RFS2 requires refiners and importers to blend renewable fuels totaling at least 8.01% of total fuel volume, of which 7.23% of total fuel volume can be derived from corn-based ethanol.

The following chart illustrates the potential United States ethanol demand based on the schedule of minimum usage established by the program through the year 2022 (in billions of gallons).

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Total Renewable Fuel Requirement</u> | <u>Cellulosic Ethanol Minimum Requirement</u> | <u>Biodiesel Minimum Requirement</u> | <u>Advanced Biofuel</u> | <u>RFS Requirement That Can Be Met With Corn-Based Ethanol</u> |
|-------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 2012 .....  | 15.20                                   | 0.50  | 1.00                                 | 2.00                    | 13.20  |
| 2013 .....  | 16.55                                   | 1.00  | —                                    | 2.75                    | 13.80  |
| 2014 .....  | 18.15                                   | 1.75  | —                                    | 3.75                    | 14.40  |
| 2015 .....  | 20.50                                   | 3.00  | —                                    | 5.50                    | 15.00  |
| 2016 .....  | 22.25                                   | 4.25  | —                                    | 7.25                    | 15.00  |
| 2017 .....  | 24.00                                   | 5.50  | —                                    | 9.00                    | 15.00  |
| 2018 .....  | 26.00                                   | 7.00  | —                                    | 11.00                   | 15.00  |
| 2019 .....  | 28.00                                   | 8.50  | —                                    | 13.00                   | 15.00  |
| 2020 .....  | 30.00                                   | 10.50   | —                                    | 15.00                   | 15.00  |
| 2021 .....  | 33.00                                   | 13.50   | —                                    | 18.00                   | 15.00  |
| 2022 .....  | 36.00                                   | 16.00   | —                                    | 21.00                   | 15.00  |

The RFS2 went into effect on July 1, 2010 and requires certain gas emission reductions for the entire lifecycle, including production of fuels. The greenhouse gas reduction requirement generally does not apply to

facilities that commenced construction prior to December 2007. If this changes and our plants must meet the standard for emissions reduction, it may impact the way we procure feed stock and modify the way we market and transport our products.

### ***Clean Air Additive***

A clean air additive is a substance that, when added to gasoline, reduces tailpipe emissions, resulting in improved air quality characteristics. Ethanol contains 35% oxygen, approximately twice that of MTBE, a historically used oxygenate. The additional oxygen found in ethanol results in more complete combustion of the fuel in the engine cylinder, which reduces tailpipe emissions by as much as 30%, including a 12% reduction in volatile organic compound emissions when blended at a 10% level. Pure ethanol, which is non-toxic, water soluble and biodegradable, replaces some of the harmful gasoline components, including benzene.

### ***Octane Enhancer***

Pure ethanol possesses an average octane rating of 113, enabling refiners to conform lower octane blend stock to gasoline standards, while also expanding the volume of fuel produced. In addition, ethanol is commonly added to finished regular grade gasoline at the wholesale terminal as a means of producing higher octane mid-grade and premium gasoline. At present, ethanol represents one of the few commercially viable sources of octane enhancer available to refiners.

### ***Fuel Extender***

Ethanol extends the volume of gasoline by the amount of ethanol blended with conventional gasoline, thereby reducing dependence on foreign crude oil and refined products. Furthermore, ethanol is easily added to gasoline after the refining process, reducing the need for large, capital intensive capacity expansion projects at refineries.

### ***E85, a Gasoline Alternative***

Ethanol is the primary blend component in E85. The number of service stations that sell E85 has grown rapidly, and, as of October 24, 2011, 2,459 retail stations currently supplied it in the U.S. The National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition estimates that there are more than 8.5 million flexible fuel vehicles, or FFVs, on the road in the U.S. today.

### ***Blending Incentives***

The Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit ("VEETC"), often commonly referred to as the "blender's credit", was created by the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004. This credit allows gasoline distributors who blend ethanol with gasoline to receive a federal excise tax credit of \$0.45 per gallon of pure ethanol used, or \$0.045 per gallon for E10 and \$0.3825 per gallon for E85. To ensure the blender's credit spurs growth in domestic production, federal policy has insulated the domestic ethanol industry from foreign competition by levying a \$0.54 per gallon tariff on all imported ethanol. Both the VEETC and the tariff were set to expire on December 31, 2010, but were extended for one year as part of the "Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010" signed into law by President Obama on December 17, 2010. The VEETC and tariff are expected to expire on December 31, 2011. We do not know what effect the expiration of these incentives will have on our business, but there could be an adverse affect on our profitability.

### ***California Low Carbon Fuel Standard***

In April 2009, the California air regulators approved the Low-Carbon Fuel Standard aimed at achieving a 10% reduction in motor vehicle emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020. Other states may adopt similar

legislation, which may lead to a national standard. The regulation requires that providers, refiners, importers and blenders ensure that the fuels they provide in the California market meet a declining standard of carbon intensity. This rule calls for a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production, transportation and consumption of a fuel. The emissions score also includes indirect land-use change pollution created from converting a forest to cultivated land for corn feedstock. The final regulation contains a provision to review the measurement of the indirect land-use effects and further analysis of the land-use values and modeling inputs.

This standard and others to follow may impact the way ethanol producers procure feedstocks, produce dry distillers grains and market and transport ethanol and distillers grains. Ethanol produced through low carbon methods, including imported ethanol made from sugarcane, may be redirected to certain markets and U.S. producers may be required to market their ethanol in other regions with possible material adverse effects on our profitability.

#### ***Imported Ethanol Tariffs***

There is a \$0.54 per gallon tariff on imported ethanol, which expires on December 31, 2011, after a one year extension was signed into law on December 17, 2010. Ethanol imports from 24 countries in Central America and the Caribbean region are exempted from the tariff under the Caribbean Basin Initiative or CBI, which provides that specified nations may export an aggregate of 7% of U.S. ethanol production per year into the U.S., with additional exemptions from ethanol produced from feedstock in the Caribbean region over the 7% limit. Ethanol imported from Caribbean basin countries may be a less expensive alternative to domestically produced ethanol. Expiration of this tariff could lead to the importation of ethanol from other countries, which may be a less expensive alternative to ethanol produced domestically. This could impact our ability to sell our ethanol at the price we need to operate profitably. On December 2, 2011, a bill was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives to extend the tariff until January 1, 2015. It is not possible to predict the likelihood of this legislation becoming law at this time.

#### ***Chinese Anti-Dumping Investigation***

On December 28, 2010, the Chinese government announced a one-year investigation into the potential violation of anti-dumping laws regarding imported dried distillers grains ("DDGs") originating in the United States. The allegation is that the recent surge in imports of U.S. dried distillers grains is undercutting sales of domestically produced dried distillers grains and that U.S. dried distillers grains are being sold at a price lower than the fair market value. If the Chinese government finds evidence of dumping upon conclusion of the investigation on December 28, 2011, a final determination will include the imposition of punitive tariffs on U.S. exports of DDGs to China. Punitive tariffs, if applied, will be significantly higher, as much as 50 percent, for non-cooperating parties. Although the Company does not sell distillers grains directly into China, some of our distillers grains may be sold into China through third parties. The Company has chosen to cooperate with the Chinese government's investigation, but at this time we are uncertain as to the impact this may have on our business. China was the second largest export market for U.S. distillers grains in the first eight months of 2011, after Mexico. Any imposition of tariffs could reduce the market price of distillers grains in the U.S., as it would most likely decrease the volume of exports to China.

#### ***European Union Anti-Dumping Investigation***

On November 24, 2011, the European Union (EU) initiated anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations regarding U.S. exports of ethanol to Europe and current U.S. policies surrounding ethanol production and use. Specifically at issue is federal and state incentives to producers and/or blenders of ethanol, which the EU alleges are allowing U.S. exports to be sold below fair market value in the EU. Preliminary findings are due by August 24, 2012. The EU could potentially impose anti-dumping and anti-subsidy tariffs for periods of six months to five years, should it find evidence of dumping. The Company does not export any ethanol to Europe at this time. Any imposition of tariffs could reduce U.S. exports to Europe, and possibly other export markets. A reduction of exports to Europe could have an adverse effect on domestic ethanol prices, as the available supply of ethanol for the domestic market would increase.

### ***Ethanol Competition***

The ethanol we produce is similar to ethanol produced by other plants. The RFA reports that as of September 2011, current U.S. ethanol production capacity is approximately 14.7 billion gallons per year. On a national level there are numerous other production facilities with which we are in direct competition, many of whom have greater resources than we do. As of September 2011, Nebraska had 26 ethanol plants producing an aggregate of 2.0 billion gallons of ethanol per year, and South Dakota had 15 ethanol plants producing an aggregate of 1.0 billion gallons of ethanol per year, including our plants.

The largest ethanol producers include: Abengoa Bioenergy Corp., Archer Daniels Midland Company, Cargill, Inc., Green Plains Renewable Energy, Inc., POET, LLC and Valero Renewable Fuels. Producers of this size may have an advantage over us from economies of scale and stronger negotiating positions with purchasers. We market our ethanol primarily on a regional and national basis. We believe that we are able to reach the best available markets through the use of experienced ethanol marketers and by the rail delivery methods we utilize. Our plants compete with other ethanol producers on the basis of price, and, to a lesser extent, delivery service. We believe that we can compete favorably with other ethanol producers due to our proximity to ample grain, natural gas, electricity and water supplies at favorable prices.

### ***Competition from Alternative Fuels***

Alternative fuels and alternative ethanol production methods are continually under development. The major oil companies have significantly greater resources than we have to develop alternative products and to influence legislation and public perception of ethanol. New ethanol products or methods of ethanol production developed by larger and better-financed competitors could provide them competitive advantages and harm our business.

### ***Ethanol Marketing***

ABE Fairmont entered into a new marketing agreement with Hawkeye Gold, LLC ("Hawkeye Gold") that became effective on January 1, 2010, and were amended on September 30, 2011. Prior to January 2011, Hawkeye Gold was an affiliate of Hawkeye Energy Holdings, LLC ("Hawkeye"), a 34% owner of the Company's membership units. Hawkeye sold Hawkeye Gold in January 2011, but as part of the sale price will receive continuing royalty payments from Hawkeye Gold related to 2011 and 2012 revenues from legacy customers, including the Company. The marketing agreement with Hawkeye Gold requires, among other things, that Hawkeye Gold must use commercially reasonable efforts to submit purchase orders for, and ABE Fairmont must sell, substantially all of the denatured fuel-grade ethanol produced by ABE Fairmont. The agreement expires April 30, 2013, and provides for automatic renewal for successive 18-month terms unless either party provides written notice of nonrenewal at least 180 days prior to the end of any term.

ABE South Dakota executed new marketing agreements with Hawkeye Gold that became effective October 1, 2010, and were amended on September 30, 2011. The agreements provide that Hawkeye Gold will use commercially reasonable efforts to submit purchase orders for, and ABE South Dakota will sell to Hawkeye Gold, substantially all of the denatured fuel-grade ethanol produced at the South Dakota plants. The agreement expires on April 30, 2013, and provides for automatic renewal for successive one-year terms unless either party provides written notice of nonrenewal at least 180 days prior to the end of any term. Prior to October 1, 2010, ABE South Dakota's ethanol was marketed by Gavilon, LLC ("Gavilon").

### **CO-PRODUCTS**

Sales of distillers grains have represented 16.6%, 14.2% and 19.2% of our revenues for the years ended September 30, 2011, 2010 and 2009. When the plants are operating at capacity they produce approximately 592,000 tons of dried distillers grains equivalents per year, approximately 17 pounds per bushel of corn used. Distillers grains are a high-protein, high-energy animal feed supplement primarily marketed to the dairy and beef industry, as well as the poultry and swine markets. Dry mill ethanol processing creates three forms of distillers grains: wet distillers grains with solubles, known as wet distillers grains, modified wet distillers grains with

solubles, known as modified distillers grains, and dry distillers grains with solubles. Modified distillers grains have been dried to approximately 50% moisture, have a slightly longer shelf life than wet of approximately 10 days, and are often sold to nearby markets. Dried distillers grains have been dried to 11% moisture, have an almost indefinite shelf life and may be sold and shipped to any market regardless of its proximity to an ethanol plant.

In August 2011, we implemented corn oil extraction technology at our Fairmont plant, and intend to implement the technology at our Aberdeen facility in 2012. The corn oil systems are designed to extract non-edible corn oil during the thin stillage evaporation process immediately prior to production of distillers grains. Corn oil is produced by processing evaporated thin stillage through a disk stack style centrifuge. Corn oil has a lower density than the water or solids that make up the syrup. The centrifuges separate the relatively light oil from the heavier components of the syrup, eliminating the need for significant retention time. De-oiled syrup is returned to the process for blending into wet, modified, or dry distillers grains. The corn oil product is primarily marketed as a livestock feed supplement or to the biodiesel market.

Industrial uses for corn oil include feedstock for biodiesel, livestock feed additives, rubber substitutes, rust preventatives, inks, textiles, soaps and insecticides. Our corn oil is primarily sold by truck to biodiesel manufacturers.

### ***Competition***

In the sales of distillers grains, we compete with other ethanol producers, as well as a number of large and smaller suppliers of competing animal feed. We believe the principal competitive factors are price, proximity to purchasers and product quality. Currently 80% of our distillers grain revenues are derived from the sale of dried distillers grains, which has an indefinite shelf life and can be transported by truck or rail, 6% as modified and 14% as wet, which have a shorter shelf life and are typically sold in local markets.

In the sales of corn oil, we compete with other ethanol producers. Many producers are adding corn oil technology to their facilities.

### ***Co-Product Marketing***

ABE Fairmont is currently self-marketing the distillers grains it produces. ABE South Dakota currently has a marketing agreement with Dakotaland Feeds, LLC ("Dakotaland Feeds") for marketing the local sale of ethanol co-products produced at the Huron plant. ABE South Dakota executed a new marketing agreement with Hawkeye Gold for distillers grains produced at the Aberdeen plants which became effective October 1, 2010. The marketing agreement with Hawkeye Gold provides that Hawkeye Gold agrees to use commercially reasonable efforts to submit purchase orders for, and ABE South Dakota agrees to sell, substantially all of the dried and wet distillers grains produced at the Aberdeen plants. Dakotaland Feeds will continue to market the distillers grains produced at the Huron plant.

ABE Fairmont signed a marketing agreement on July 24, 2011 with Tenaska Biofuels, LLC, for marketing the sale of all the corn oil produced by the Fairmont plant. The initial term of the agreement expires January 24, 2012, and will be followed by one year renewal terms unless terminated by one of the parties to the agreement.

### **DRY MILL PROCESS**

Dry mill ethanol plants produce ethanol primarily by processing corn. Other possible feeds are grain sorghum, or other cellulosic materials. The corn is received by truck, weighed, unloaded in a receiving building, and then conveyed to storage silos. Thereafter, it is transferred to a scalper to remove rocks, cobs, and other debris before it is fed to a hammer mill where it is ground into flour and conveyed into a slurry tank. Water, heat and enzymes are added to the flour in the slurry tank to start the process of converting starch from the corn into

sugar. The slurry is pumped to a liquefaction tank where additional enzymes are added. These enzymes continue the starch-to-sugar conversion. The grain slurry is pumped into fermenters, where yeast is added, to begin the batch-fermentation process. Fermentation is the process of the yeast converting the sugar into alcohol and carbon dioxide. After the fermentation is complete, a vacuum distillation system removes the alcohol from the corn mash. The 95% (190-proof) alcohol from the distillation process is then transported to a molecular sieve system, where it is dehydrated to 100% alcohol (200 proof). The 200-proof alcohol is then pumped to storage tanks and blended with a denaturant, usually natural gasoline. The 200-proof alcohol and 2.0-2.5% denaturant constitute denatured fuel ethanol.

Corn mash left over from distillation is pumped into a centrifuge for dewatering. The liquid from the centrifuge, known as thin stillage, is then pumped from the centrifuges to an evaporator, where it is concentrated into a syrup. The solids that exit the centrifuge, known as the wet cake, are conveyed to the dryer system. Syrup is added to the wet cake as it enters the dryer, where moisture is removed. The process produces distillers grains with solubles, which is used as a high-protein/fat animal-feed supplement. Dry-mill ethanol processing creates three forms of distillers grains: wet distillers grains with solubles, known as wet distillers grains; modified wet distillers grains with solubles, known as modified distillers grains; and dry distillers grains with solubles, known as dry distillers grains. Wet and modified distillers grains have been dried to approximately 67% and 50% moisture levels, respectively, and are predominately sold to nearby markets. Dried distillers grains have been dried to 11% moisture, have an almost indefinite shelf life and may be sold and shipped to any market regardless of its proximity to an ethanol plant.

Corn oil is produced by processing evaporated thin stillage through a disk stack style centrifuge. Corn oil has a lower density than water or solids that make up the syrup. The centrifuges separate the relatively light oil from the heavier components of the syrup, eliminating the need for significant retention time. De-oiled syrup is returned to the process for blending into wet, modified, or dry distillers grains. The corn oil is then pumped into storage tanks before being loaded onto trucks for sale.

## **RAW MATERIALS**

### ***Corn***

In 2010, the ethanol industry consumed approximately 4.7 billion bushels of corn, which approximated 37.9% of the 12.4 billion bushels of 2010 domestic corn production.

Our production facilities produce ethanol by using a dry-mill process, which yields approximately 2.8 gallons of denatured ethanol per bushel of corn. When our facilities are operating at capacity, they require approximately 69.6 million bushels of corn per year. At our Fairmont plant, we source our corn both directly from farmers located near our facilities and from local dealers. We have a grain origination agreement with South Dakota Wheat Growers Association to originate, store and deliver corn to the Aberdeen and Huron plants. The corn for the facilities is generally delivered to the facilities by truck from the local area.

We purchase corn through cash fixed-priced contracts and other physical delivery contracts. Our forward contracts specify the amount of corn, the price and the time period over which the corn is to be delivered. These forward contracts are at fixed-prices or prices based on the Chicago Board of Trade ("CBOT") prices. The parameters of these contracts are based on the local supply and demand situation and the seasonality of the price. We purchase approximately 90% of the ABE Fairmont corn from commercial elevators and the remainder from local corn producers. Except for the grain origination agreement with South Dakota Wheat Growers Association, we have no other significant contracts, agreements or understandings with any grain producer.

We intend to use forward contracting and hedging strategies to help guard against price movements that often occur in corn markets. Hedging means protecting the price at which we buy corn and the price at which we sell our products in the future. It is a way to reduce the risk caused by price fluctuation. The effectiveness of such hedging activities depends on, among other things, the cost of corn and our ability to sell enough ethanol and

distillers grains to use all of the corn subject to the futures and option contracts we have purchased as part of our hedging strategy. Although we will attempt to link hedging activities to sales plans and pricing activities, hedging activities themselves can result in costs because price movements in corn contracts are highly volatile and are influenced by many factors that are beyond our control.

### ***Natural Gas***

When our facilities operate at capacity, they require approximately 5.4 million British Thermal Units (“mmbtu”) of natural gas per year. Natural gas prices and availability are affected by weather conditions and overall economic conditions. We have constructed our own natural gas pipelines for the Aberdeen and Fairmont plants. These pipelines originate at interstate transport pipelines and allow our plants to source gas from various national marketers without paying transportation cost to the local utility. We purchase natural gas from local utilities and national suppliers for our Huron plant. We hedge a portion of our exposure to natural gas price risk from time to time by using fixed-price or futures contracts.

### ***Shipment of Ethanol by Rail Car***

We transport our ethanol to our customers primarily via tanker rail cars. As of December 1, 2011, we were leasing approximately 536 ethanol tank cars whose leases expire at varying times over the next three years. As a result of the recent and ongoing economic slowdown in the United States over the past few years, rail car manufacturers have reduced their production of new rail cars. This reduction, combined along with increased demand for tankers for the oil industry as a result of increased production in Western North Dakota and Eastern Montana, has severely constrained the available supply of tanker rail cars. If we have to sign new leases at prices significantly in excess of our current lease rates, our future profitability could be adversely affected. In addition, if we are unable to procure sufficient replacement tanker cars when our current leases expire, we would have to curtail or cease production as we would be unable to transport our ethanol to customers.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

We are subject to various federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations, including those relating to the discharge of materials into the air, water and ground; the generation, storage, handling, use, transportation and disposal of hazardous materials; and the health and safety of our employees. Any violation of these laws and regulations or permit conditions could result in substantial fines, natural resource damage, criminal sanctions, damage claims from third parties, permit revocations or facility shutdowns. We believe we are currently in substantial compliance with environmental laws and regulations and do not anticipate a material adverse effect on our business or financial condition as a result of our efforts to comply with these requirements. However, our business is still subject to risks associated with environmental and other regulations and associated costs. Protection of the environment requires us to incur expenditures for equipment, processes and permitting. Although we include significant pollution control equipment in our production facilities, our capital expenditures for environmental controls in 2011 were not material, and we do not expect material expenditures for environmental controls in 2012.

## **EMPLOYEES**

As of December 1, 2011, we had 129 full-time employees. None of our employees are covered by a collective bargaining agreement.

## **SEASONALITY**

Our operating results are influenced by seasonal fluctuations in the price of our primary operating inputs, corn and natural gas, and the price of our primary products, ethanol and distillers grains. Historically, the spot price of corn tends to rise during the spring planting season in May and June and tends to decrease during the fall



harvest in October and November. The price for natural gas however, tends to move opposite of corn and tends to be lower in the spring and summer and higher in the fall and winter. The price of distillers grains tends to rise during the fall and winter cattle feeding seasons and be lower in the spring and summer when pasture grazing is readily available.

## **REPORTS**

The Company's annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to such reports are available on the Company's website [www.advancedbioenergy.com](http://www.advancedbioenergy.com) as soon as reasonably practicable after it electronically files such materials with the SEC.

## **ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS**

### **RISKS RELATED TO OUR BUSINESS**

***Current ABE Fairmont and ABE South Dakota debt financing agreements contain restrictive covenants. Our failure to comply with applicable debt financing covenants and agreements could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.***

The terms of our existing debt financing agreements contain, and any future debt financing agreements we enter into may contain, financial, maintenance, organizational, operational or other restrictive covenants. If ABE Fairmont and ABE South Dakota are unable to comply with these covenants or service their debt, we may be forced to reduce or delay planned capital expenditures, sell assets, restructure our indebtedness or submit to foreclosure proceedings, any of which could result in a material adverse effect upon our business, results of operations and financial condition.

***Our financial performance is highly dependent on commodity prices, which are subject to significant volatility, uncertainty, and supply disruptions, so our results may be materially adversely affected.***

Our results of operations and financial condition are significantly affected by the cost and supply of corn and natural gas, and by the selling price for ethanol, distillers grains, corn oil and gasoline, which are commodities. Changes in the price and supply of these commodities are subject to and determined by market forces over which we have no control. We purchase our corn in the cash market, and from time to time, hedge corn price risk through futures contracts, options and over-the-counter instruments to reduce short-term exposure to price fluctuations. We experienced aggregate corn-related hedging losses of \$743,000, \$49,000, and \$3.2 million in fiscal 2011, 2010, and 2009, respectively, and these losses may be greater in the future.

Our revenues exclusively depend on the market prices for ethanol, distillers grains and corn oil. These prices can be volatile due to a number of factors, including overall supply and demand, the price of gasoline, the level of government support and the availability and price of competing products. The price of ethanol tends to increase as the price of gasoline increases, and decrease as the price of gasoline decreases. Therefore, any lowering of gasoline prices will likely also lead to lower prices for ethanol, which may reduce revenues.

***Certain members beneficially own a large percentage of our units, which may allow them to collectively control substantially all matters requiring member approval and, certain of our principal members, including Hawkeye Energy Holdings, LLC and Clean Energy Capital, LLC (f/k/a Ethanol Capital Management, LLC) ("CEC"), have been granted other special voting rights.***

In August 2009, we and each of our then current directors, South Dakota Wheat Growers Association, CEC and Hawkeye executed a Voting Agreement (the "Voting Agreement"). The Voting Agreement, among other things, requires the parties to (a) nominate for election to the board two designees of Hawkeye, two designees of CEC and the Chief Executive Officer of the Company, (b) recommend to the members the election of each of these designees, (c) vote (or act by written consent) all units (or other voting equity securities) of the Company

they beneficially own, hold of record or otherwise control at any time, in person or by proxy, to elect each of the designees to the board, (d) not take any action that would result in (and take any action necessary to prevent) the removal of any of the designees from the board or the increase in the size of the board to more than nine members without the consent of the Hawkeye, CEC and Chief Executive Officer, and (e) not grant a proxy with respect to any units that is inconsistent with the parties' obligations under the Voting Agreement. The Company has also granted Hawkeye board observation rights under the Voting Agreement. At October 31, 2011, the parties to the Voting Agreement held in the aggregate approximately 57% of the outstanding units of the Company.

As a result of the Voting Agreement, Hawkeye and CEC have the ability to significantly influence the outcome of any actions taken by our board of directors. In addition, given the large ownership of these two entities, they can significantly influence other actions, such as amendments to our operating agreement, mergers, going private transactions, and other extraordinary transactions, and any decisions concerning the terms of any of these transactions. The ownership and voting positions of these members may have the effect of delaying, deterring, or preventing a change in control or a change in the composition of our board of directors. These members may also use their contractual rights, including access to management, and their large ownership position to address their own interests, which may be different from those of our other members.

***We are required to sell substantially all of our ethanol (and part of our distillers grains) to Hawkeye Gold, (formerly an affiliate of Hawkeye), which may place us at a competitive disadvantage and reduce profitability.***

We entered into Exclusive Ethanol Marketing Agreements with Hawkeye Gold to sell all of our ethanol. ABE Fairmont executed an Exclusive Ethanol Marketing Agreement dated as of August 28, 2009 with Hawkeye Gold (the "ABE Fairmont Ethanol Agreement") that became effective on January 1, 2010. ABE South Dakota executed Exclusive Ethanol Marketing Agreements dated as of April 7, 2010 with Hawkeye Gold (the "ABE South Dakota Ethanol Agreements", and together with the ABE Fairmont Ethanol Agreement, the "Ethanol Agreements") that became effective October 1, 2010. Prior to January 2011, Hawkeye Gold was an affiliate of Hawkeye, a 34% owner of our outstanding membership interests. Hawkeye sold Hawkeye Gold in January 2011, but as part of the sale price will receive continuing royalty payments from Hawkeye Gold related to 2011 and 2012 revenues from legacy customers, including the Company.

The Ethanol Agreements require, among other things, that (1) Hawkeye Gold must use commercially reasonable efforts to submit purchase orders for, and ABE Fairmont and ABE South Dakota must sell, substantially all of the denatured fuel grade ethanol produced by ABE Fairmont and ABE South Dakota, (2) a purchase and sale of ethanol under the Ethanol Agreements must be in the form of either a direct fixed price purchase order, a direct index price purchase order, a terminal storage purchase order, a transportation swap or similar transaction that is mutually acceptable to the parties, (3) ABE Fairmont or ABE South Dakota will pay any replacement or other costs incurred by Hawkeye Gold as a result of any failure to deliver by ABE Fairmont or ABE South Dakota, respectively, and (4) with certain exceptions, ABE Fairmont and ABE South Dakota will sell substantially all of the ethanol they produce to Hawkeye Gold. The initial term of the ABE Fairmont Agreement expires April 30, 2013, and provides for automatic renewal for successive 18 month terms unless either party provides written notice of nonrenewal at least 180 days prior to the end of any term. The initial terms of the ABE South Dakota Ethanol Agreements expire April 30, 2013 and provide for automatic renewal for successive one-year terms unless either party provides written notice of nonrenewal at least 180 days prior to the end of any term. Effective October 1, 2010, ABE South Dakota entered into a similar marketing agreement with Hawkeye Gold for the sale of distillers grains produced at its Aberdeen plants, whose initial term expires September 30, 2013. Hawkeye Gold may not effectively manage the logistics of ABE Fairmont and ABE South Dakota's rail cars to ensure ABE Fairmont and ABE South Dakota will be able to continue producing ethanol without exceeding their storage capacity, resulting in unplanned slowdowns or shut downs or may not otherwise successfully market ABE's ethanol (and distillers grains). A default by Hawkeye Gold in its obligations to ABE Fairmont or ABE South Dakota, ABE Fairmont's or ABE South Dakota's failure to obtain the best price for their ethanol, or Hawkeye Gold's failure to effectively manage logistics may negatively affect our profitability.

***We depend on others for sales of our products, which may place us at a competitive disadvantage and reduce profitability.***

We currently have agreements with a third-party marketing firms including Hawkeye Gold, to market all of the ethanol we produce as well as the distillers grains produced at the ABE South Dakota Aberdeen plants. We contracts with third parties to market the sale of distillers grains produced at the South Dakota Huron plant, and corn oil produced at the Fairmont plant. If the ethanol or co-product marketers breach their contracts or do not have the ability, for financial or other reasons, to market all of the ethanol we produce or to market the co-products produced at the South Dakota plants or corn oil produced at our Fairmont plant, we may not have any readily available alternative means to sell our products. Our lack of a sales force and reliance on third parties to sell and market most of our products may place us at a competitive disadvantage. Our failure to sell all of our ethanol and co-products may result in lower revenues and reduced profitability.

***We are exposed to credit risk resulting from the non-payment from significant customers.***

We have a concentration of credit risk since our subsidiaries generally sell all of their ethanol to a single customer. We have increased in-house sales of distillers grains, which results in credit risks from new customers. Although payments are typically received within twenty days from the date of sale for ethanol and distillers grains, we continually monitor this credit risk exposure. In addition, we may prepay for or make deposits on undelivered inventories. Concentrations of credit risk with respect to inventory advances are primarily with a few major suppliers of petroleum products and agricultural inputs. The inability of a third party to make payments to us for our accounts receivable or to provide inventory to us on advances may cause us to experience losses and may adversely impact our liquidity and our ability to make our payments when due. As of September 30, 2011, the total receivable balance at ABE Fairmont was \$10.2 million, of which 68% was due from one customer, and the total receivable balance at ABE South Dakota was \$4.6 million of which 97% was due from two customers.

***Our profitability is dependent on the spread between ethanol and corn prices, which can vary significantly.***

Gross profit on gallons produced at our facilities, which accounts for the substantial majority of our operating income, is principally dependent on the spread between ethanol and corn prices. During fiscal 2011, the price of corn increased at a faster rate than the price of ethanol, resulting in a reduction in our margins.

The price of corn is influenced by weather conditions (including droughts or over abundant rainfall) and other factors affecting crop yields, farmer planting decisions and general economic, market and regulatory factors, including government policies and subsidies with respect to agriculture and international trade, and global and local supply and demand.

***The market for natural gas is subject to market conditions that create uncertainty in the price and availability of the natural gas that we use in our manufacturing process.***

Natural gas costs represented approximately 4.2% of our cost of goods sold in the year ended September 30, 2011. We rely upon third parties for our supply of natural gas, which is consumed in the production of ethanol. The prices for and availability of natural gas are subject to volatile market conditions. These market conditions often are affected by factors beyond our control such as higher prices resulting from colder than average weather conditions, hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and overall economic conditions. Significant disruptions in the supply of natural gas could impair our ability to produce ethanol. Furthermore, increases in natural gas prices or

changes in our natural gas costs relative to natural gas costs paid by competitors may adversely affect our results of operations and financial position. Natural gas prices over the period from January 1, 2001 through October 1, 2011, based on the New York Mercantile Exchange or NYMEX, daily futures data, have ranged from a low of \$1.83 per million British Thermal Units, or mmbtu, on September 26, 2001 to a high of \$15.38 per mmbtu on December 13, 2005. At September 30, 2011, the NYMEX price of natural gas was \$3.67 per mmbtu.

***We may engage in hedging transactions and other risk mitigation strategies that could harm our results.***

We are exposed to a variety of market risks, including the effects of changes in commodity prices. We may engage in hedging activities using exchange traded futures and options contracts, OTC futures or OTC swap agreements. Hedging activities can result in losses when a position is purchased in a declining market or a position is sold in a rising market. We experienced aggregate corn-related hedging losses of \$743,000, \$49,000 and \$3.2 million in fiscal 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. There is no assurance that we will not experience greater hedging losses in the future. Hedging arrangements also expose us to the risk of financial loss in situations where the other party to the hedging contract defaults on its contract or, in the case of exchange-traded contracts, where there is a change in the expected differential between the underlying price in the hedging agreement and the actual prices paid or received by us. In addition, failure to have adequate capital to use various hedging strategies may result in a loss for our company or expose us to substantial risk of loss.

***The supply of ethanol rail cars in the market is extremely tight which could affect our ability to obtain new tanker cars or negotiate new leases at a reasonable fee when our current leases expire .***

We currently lease approximately 536 ethanol tanker cars whose leases expire at varying times over the next three years. We require tanker cars to ship our ethanol to customers, and would have to curtail or cease production should we not have sufficient cars available. The rail car manufacturers have reduced production over the past few years, which along with demand for tankers for the oil industry, has severely constrained the available supply of tanker rail cars. Our profitability could be negatively impacted should we have to sign new leases at prices significantly in excess of current lease rates. Further, if we are unable to procure sufficient new tanker cars when our current leases expire, we would have to curtail or cease production as we would be unable to transport our ethanol to customers.

***Our business is subject to seasonal fluctuations.***

Our operating results are influenced by seasonal fluctuations in the price of our primary operating inputs, corn and natural gas, and the price of our primary products, ethanol and distillers grains. Historically, the spot price of corn tended to rise during the spring planting season in May and June and tended to decrease during the fall harvest in October and November. The price for natural gas, however, tends to move opposite of corn and tends to be lower in the spring and summer and higher in the fall and winter. The price of distillers grains tends to rise during the fall and winter cattle feeding seasons and be lower in the spring and summer when pasture grazing is readily available.

***Our lack of business diversification could result in adverse operating results if our revenues from our primary products decrease.***

Our business consists of the production and sale of ethanol, distillers grains, and corn oil. We do not have any other lines of business or other potential sources of revenue. Our lack of business diversification could cause us to shut down operations and be unable to meet financial obligations if we are unable to generate positive cash flows from the production and sale of ethanol and co-products because we do not currently expect to have any other lines of business or alternative revenue sources.

***Our operating results may fluctuate significantly, which makes our future results difficult to predict and could cause our operating results to fall below expectations.***

Our operating results have fluctuated in the past and may fluctuate significantly in the future due to a variety of factors, many of which are outside of our control. As a result, comparing our operating results on a period-to-period basis may not be meaningful, and our past results do not necessarily indicate our future performance.

***We are dependent on certain key personnel, and the loss of any of these persons may prevent us from implementing our business plan in an effective and timely manner.***

Our success depends largely upon the continued services of our chief executive officer and other key personnel. Any loss or interruption of the services of one of these key personnel could result in our inability to manage our operations effectively or pursue our business strategy.

***We may be required to write down our long-lived assets and these impairment charges would adversely affect our operating results.***

Long-lived assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount on the asset may not be recoverable. An impairment loss would be recognized when estimated undiscounted future cash flows from operations are less than the carrying value of the asset group. An impairment loss would be measured by the amount by which the carrying value of the asset exceeds the fair value of the assets at the time of the impairment. Any future impairment could be significant and could have a material adverse effect on our reported financial results for the period in which the charge is taken.

## **RISKS RELATED TO OUR UNITS**

***We have placed significant restrictions on transferability of the units, no public trading market exists for our units and there is no assurance that unitholders will receive cash distributions.***

Our units are subject to substantial transfer restrictions pursuant to our operating agreement. As a result, investors may not be able to liquidate their investments in the units and, therefore, may be required to assume the risks of investments in us for an indefinite period of time, which may be the life of our Company. We have not developed an exit strategy.

Further, there is currently no established public trading market for our units, and we do not anticipate an active trading market will develop. In order for the Company to maintain its partnership tax status, unitholders may not trade the units on an established securities market or readily trade the units on a secondary market (or the substantial equivalent thereof).

To help ensure that a secondary market does not develop, our operating agreement prohibits transfers without the approval of our board of directors. The board of directors will not approve transfers unless they fall within “safe harbors” contained in the publicly traded partnership rules under the tax code, which include, without limitation, the following:

- Transfers by gift to the member’s descendants,
- Transfer upon the death of a member,
- Transfers between family members, and
- Transfers that comply with the “qualifying matching services” requirements.

Distributions are payable at the sole discretion of our board of directors, subject to the provisions of the Delaware Limited Liability Company Act, our operating agreement and the requirements of our creditors. We

cannot ensure that we will make cash distributions. Our board may elect to retain future profits to provide operational financing for the plants, debt retirement and possible plant expansion, the construction or acquisition of additional plants or other company opportunities. This means that members may receive little or no return on their investment and be unable to liquidate their investment due to transfer restrictions and lack of a public trading market.

***Our members have limited voting rights.***

Members cannot exercise control over our daily business affairs. Subject to the provisions in our operating agreement, our board of directors may modify our business plans without the members' consent.

In addition to the election of directors, the disposition of substantially all of our assets through merger, exchange or otherwise, except for dissolution of our company or a transfer of our assets to a wholly owned subsidiary, requires the affirmative vote of a majority of our membership voting interests.

Our members may only propose amendments to the Operating Agreement and call a unit holder meeting if they hold more than 1% of the units outstanding. Members may demand a member meeting only if they represent in the aggregate 30% of the membership voting interests.

Amendments to our operating agreement (other than amendments that would modify the limited liability of a member or alter a member's economic interest, which requires a two-thirds vote of the membership interests adversely affected) require the affirmative vote of a majority of the membership voting interests represented at a meeting.

**RISKS RELATED TO THE ETHANOL INDUSTRY**

***If demand does not sufficiently increase and production capacity and imported ethanol increase, an overcapacity state could develop.***

According to the RFA, domestic ethanol production capacity has increased dramatically from 1.7 billion gallons per year in January of 1999 to 14.7 billion gallons per year as of September 2011; however, 10 of the 209 plants in the United States are idle, reducing current operational output capacity to 14.2 billion gallons per year. In addition to this increase in supply, excess ethanol production capacity also may result from decreases in the demand for ethanol or increased imported supply, which could result from a number of factors, including but not limited to, regulatory developments and reduced gasoline consumption in the U.S. Reduced gasoline consumption could occur as a result of increased prices for gasoline or crude oil, which could cause businesses and consumers to reduce driving or acquire vehicles with more favorable gasoline mileage, or as a result of technological advances, such as the commercialization of engines utilizing hydrogen fuel-cells, which could supplant gasoline-powered engines. There are a number of governmental initiatives designed to reduce gasoline consumption, including tax credits for hybrid vehicles and consumer education programs. In July 2011, the Federal government announced a program to increase fuel efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas pollution for all new cars and trucks sold in the United States. These new standards will cover cars and light trucks for Model Years 2017-2025, requiring performance equivalent to 54.5 mpg in 2025 while reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 163 grams per mile. These standards are likely to reduce the overall demand for gasoline, and therefore ethanol, should they be enacted.

Any increase in the supply of distillers grains, without corresponding increases in demand, could lead to lower prices or an inability to sell our distillers grains. A decline in the price of distillers grains, or the distillers grains market generally, could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

***Volatility in gasoline selling price and production cost may reduce our gross margins.***

Ethanol is utilized both as a fuel additive to reduce vehicle emissions and as an octane enhancer to improve the octane rating of the gasoline with which it is blended. Therefore, the supply and demand for gasoline impacts the price of ethanol, and our business and future results of operations may be materially adversely affected if gasoline demand or price decreases.

***The price of distillers grains is affected by the price of other commodity products; decreases in the price of these commodities could decrease the price of distillers grains.***

Distillers grains compete with other protein-based animal feed products. The price of distillers grains may decrease when the price of competing feed products decrease. The prices of competing animal feed products are based in part on the prices of the commodities from which they are derived. Downward pressure on commodity prices, such as corn and soybean meal, will generally cause the price of competing animal feed products to decline, resulting in downward pressure on the price of distillers grains. Because the price of distillers grains is not tied to production costs, decreases in the price of distillers grains will result in us generating less revenue and lower profit margins.

***Growth in the sale and distribution of ethanol is dependent on the changes in and expansion of related infrastructure which may not occur on a timely basis, if at all, and our operations could be adversely affected by infrastructure disruptions.***

Ethanol is currently blended with gasoline to meet regulatory standards as a clean air additive, an octane enhancer, a fuel extender and a gasoline alternative. In 2010, the United States consumed 13.2 billion gallons of ethanol representing 9.6% of the 138 billion gallons of finished motor gasoline consumed according to the RFA. Ethanol plants in the United States produced 13.2 billion gallons in 2010. To drive growth in ethanol usage, Growth Energy, an ethanol industry trade association, requested a waiver from the EPA to increase the allowable amount of ethanol blended into gasoline from the current 10% level to a 15% level. A final decision was announced on October 13, 2010, which will allow for E15 usage in 2007 and newer vehicles, and updated on January 21, 2011 to include 2001 to 2006 vehicles. Additional infrastructure will be required to handle the additional 5% of blending including:

- Expansion of refining and blending facilities to handle ethanol
- Growth in service stations equipped to handle ethanol fuels
- Additional storage facilities for ethanol
- Additional rail capacity
- Increase in truck fleets capable of transporting ethanol within localized markets

Without infrastructure investments by unrelated parties, the demand for ethanol may not increase, which could have an adverse effect on our business.

Current ethanol prices per gallon are approximately \$0.01 less than Reformulated Regular Gasoline Blendstock for Blending (“RBOB”) and the blenders receive a \$.45 blender’s credit for each gallon of ethanol blended. Currently, the blender’s credit is set to expire on December 31, 2011, after a one-year extension was signed into law on December 17, 2010. In the event the blender’s credit is not extended beyond 2011, we believe there could be a material adverse effect on the market for the sale of our ethanol, which in turn would have an adverse effect on our financial results.

***Corn-based ethanol may compete with cellulose-based ethanol in the future, which could make it more difficult for us to produce ethanol on a cost-effective basis.***

Approximately 99% of ethanol produced in the U.S. is currently produced from corn, according to the RFA.

A current focus in ethanol production research is the development of an efficient method of producing ethanol from cellulose-based biomass, such as agricultural waste, forest residue, municipal solid waste and energy crops. This focus is driven by governmental mandates including the Renewable Fuels Standard, as most recently amended (“RFS2”), and the fact that cellulose-based biomass would create opportunities to produce ethanol in areas that are unable to grow corn. Furthermore, ethanol produced from cellulose based biomass is generally considered to emit less carbon emission than ethanol produced from corn. If an efficient method of producing ethanol from cellulose-based biomass is developed, we may not be able to compete effectively. We currently do not believe it will be cost-effective to convert our existing plants into cellulose-based biomass facilities. If we are unable to produce ethanol as cost effectively as cellulose-based producers, our ability to generate revenue will be negatively impacted.

***Competition from new or advanced technology may lessen the demand for ethanol and negatively impact our profitability.***

Alternative fuels, gasoline oxygenates and ethanol production methods are continually under development. A number of automotive, industrial and power generation manufacturers are developing more efficient engines, hybrid engines and alternative clean power systems using fuel cells or clean burning gaseous fuels. Vehicle manufacturers are working to develop vehicles that are more fuel efficient and have reduced emissions using conventional gasoline. Vehicle manufacturers have developed and continue to work to improve hybrid technology, which powers vehicles by engines that utilize both electric and conventional gasoline fuel sources. In the future, the emerging fuel cell industry will offer a technological option to address increasing worldwide energy costs, the long-term availability of petroleum reserves and environmental concerns. Fuel cells have emerged as a potential alternative to certain existing power sources because of their higher efficiency, reduced noise and lower emissions. Fuel cell industry participants are currently targeting the transportation, stationary power and portable power markets in order to decrease fuel costs, lessen dependence on crude oil and reduce harmful emissions. If the fuel cell and hydrogen industries continue to expand and gain broad acceptance, and hydrogen becomes readily available to consumers for motor vehicle use, we may not be able to compete effectively. This additional competition could reduce the demand for ethanol, which would negatively impact our profitability and reduce the value of our units.

***Competition in the ethanol industry could limit our growth and harm our operating results.***

The market for ethanol and other biofuels is highly competitive. Our current and prospective competitors include many large companies that have substantially greater market presence, name recognition and financial, marketing and other resources than we do. We compete directly or indirectly with large companies, such as Abengoa Bioenergy Corp., Archer Daniels Midland Company, Cargill, Inc., Green Plains Renewable Energy, Inc., POET, LLC and Valero Energy Corporation and with other companies that are seeking to develop large-scale ethanol plants and alliances. Pressure from our competitors could require us to reduce our prices or increase our spending for marketing, which would erode our margins and could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***Imported ethanol may be a less expensive alternative to domestic ethanol, which would cause us to lose market share and reduce the value of your investment.***

Brazil is currently the world’s second largest producer and exporter of ethanol. In Brazil, ethanol is produced primarily from sugarcane, which is less costly to produce than corn-based ethanol because of the higher sugar content of sugarcane. Ethanol imported from Brazil may be a less expensive alternative to domestically produced ethanol. The current \$0.54 per gallon tariff imposed by the U.S. on ethanol imported from Brazil through December 31, 2011 significantly reduces competition from Brazilian ethanol producers for sales of ethanol in the U.S. In the event tariffs presently protecting U.S. ethanol producers are reduced or eliminated as is currently expected, a significant barrier to entry into the U.S. ethanol market would be removed or reduced. Competition from ethanol imported from Brazil may affect our ability to sell our ethanol profitably.



Ethanol produced or processed in certain countries in Central America and the Caribbean region is eligible for tariff reduction or elimination upon importation to the U.S. under a program known as the Caribbean Basin Initiative. Large ethanol producers, such as Cargill, have expressed interest in building dehydration plants in participating Caribbean basin countries, such as El Salvador, which would convert ethanol into fuel-grade ethanol for shipment to the U.S. Competition from ethanol imported from Caribbean basin countries may affect our ability to sell our ethanol profitably.

## **RISKS RELATED TO ETHANOL PRODUCTION**

***Operational difficulties at our plants could negatively impact our sales volumes and could cause us to incur substantial losses.***

Our operations are subject to unscheduled downtime and operational hazards inherent to our industry, such as equipment failures, utility outages, fires, explosions, abnormal pressures, blowouts, pipeline ruptures, transportation disruptions and accidents and natural disasters. We may have difficulty managing the process maintenance required to maintain our nameplate production capacities. If our ethanol plants do not produce ethanol and distillers grains at the levels we expect, our business, results of operations, and financial condition may be materially adversely affected.

***Improperly trained employees may not follow procedures, resulting in damage to certain parts of the ethanol production facility, which could negatively impact operating results if our plants do not produce ethanol and its by-products as anticipated.***

The production of ethanol and distillers grains demands continuous supervision and judgments regarding mixture rates, temperature and pressure adjustments. Errors of judgment due to lack of training or improper manufacturer instructions could send chemicals into sensitive areas of production, which may reduce or halt ethanol or distillers grains production at our facilities.

***We may have difficulty obtaining enough corn to operate the plants profitably.***

There may not be an adequate supply of corn produced in the areas surrounding our plants to satisfy our requirements. Even if there is an adequate supply of corn and we make arrangements to purchase it, we could encounter difficulties finalizing the sales transaction and managing the delivery of the corn, including difficulties caused by inclement weather. If we do not obtain corn in the quantities we plan to use, we may not be able to operate our plants at full capacity. If the price of corn in our local markets is higher due to lack of supply, drought, or other reasons, our profitability may suffer and we may incur significant losses from operations. As a result, our ability to make a profit may decline.

## **RISKS RELATED TO REGULATION AND GOVERNMENTAL ACTION**

***We are exposed to additional regulatory risk that may prevent the sale of our products to customers located in certain states or require us to change the way we operate.***

Recent legislative acts by the State of California and the Environmental Protection Agency (i.e. RFS2) require cleaner emissions and reduced carbon footprints including effects caused by indirect land use. These acts, when implemented, may prohibit the sale of our products to certain customers, which may materially adversely impact our results from operations, or may require us to procure feedstock and market our products in a fashion that negatively impacts our financial performance.

***The use and demand for ethanol and its supply are impacted by federal and state legislation and regulation, and any changes in legislation or regulation could cause the demand for ethanol to decline or its supply to increase, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition, and the ability to operate at a profit.***

Various federal and state laws, regulations and programs impact the demand for ethanol as a fuel or fuel additive. Tariffs generally apply to the import of ethanol from other countries. These laws, regulations and

programs are constantly changing. Federal and state legislators and environmental regulators could adopt or modify laws, regulations or programs that could adversely affect the use of ethanol. The elimination or reduction of tax incentives for the ethanol industry, or the elimination or reduction of tariffs that apply to imported ethanol could reduce the market for ethanol generally or for domestically produced ethanol. Such changes could reduce prices and our revenues by making it more costly or difficult for us to produce and sell ethanol. If the federal tax incentives are eliminated or sharply curtailed, we believe that demand for ethanol could decrease, which could materially adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition.

***The elimination or significant reduction in the federal ethanol tax incentive or the elimination or expiration of other federal or state incentive programs could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.***

Currently, refiners and marketers receive a \$0.45 per gallon tax incentive for each gallon of ethanol blended with gasoline. This incentive is scheduled to expire in December 2011. The federal ethanol tax incentives may not be renewed in 2012 or they may be renewed on different terms. In addition, the federal ethanol tax incentives, as well as other federal and state programs benefiting ethanol, generally are subject to U.S. government obligations under international trade agreements and may be subject to termination or reduction in scale. The elimination of or significant reduction in the federal ethanol tax incentives could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

***The State of Nebraska may not reimburse us for the tax incentives laid out in our Nebraska Advantage Act contract.***

We received approximately \$4.2 million from the State of Nebraska for reimbursement of sales taxes paid on construction bills related to our ABE Fairmont plant. We also anticipate receiving additional sales tax and employment credits over the next nine years. Any delay or termination of payments under the State of Nebraska's Advantage Act could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

***Current tariffs effectively limit imported ethanol into the U.S., and their reduction or elimination could undermine the ethanol industry in the U.S.***

Imported ethanol has generally been subject to a \$0.54 per gallon tariff that was designed to supplement the \$0.45 per gallon ethanol incentive available under the federal excise tax incentive program for refineries that blend ethanol in their fuel. These tariffs are currently scheduled to expire on December 31, 2011. There is also a special exemption from this tariff for ethanol imported from 24 countries in Central America and the Caribbean Islands, which is limited to a total of 7% of U.S. ethanol production per year. Imports from the exempted countries may increase as a result of new plants in development. Since production costs for ethanol in these countries are significantly less than what they are in the U.S., the duty-free import of ethanol through the countries exempted from the tariff may negatively affect the demand for domestic ethanol and the price at which we sell our ethanol.

We do not know the extent to which the volume of imports would increase or the effect on U.S. prices for ethanol if the tariff is not renewed beyond its current expiration date of December 31, 2011. Any changes in the tariff or exemption from the tariff could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

***Various studies have criticized ethanol, which could lead to the reduction or repeal of incentives and tariffs that promote the use and domestic production of ethanol.***

Although many trade groups, academics and governmental agencies have supported ethanol as a fuel additive that promotes a cleaner environment, others have criticized ethanol production as consuming considerably more energy and emitting more greenhouse gases than other biofuels. Other studies have suggested

that corn-based ethanol is less efficient than ethanol produced from switch grass or wheat grain and that ethanol's demand on corn has resulted in higher food prices and shortages. If these views gain acceptance, support for existing measures promoting use and domestic production of corn-based ethanol could decline, leading to reduction or repeal of these measures.

***We may be adversely affected by environmental, health and safety laws, regulations and liabilities.***

We are subject to extensive air, water and other environmental regulations, including those relating to the discharge of materials into the air, water and ground, the generation, storage, handling, use, transportation and disposal of hazardous materials, and the health and safety of our employees, and the plants we operate or manage need to maintain a number of environmental permits. Each ethanol plant we operate or manage is subject to environmental regulation by the state in which the plant is located and by the EPA. These laws, regulations and permits can often require expensive pollution control equipment or operational changes to limit actual or potential impacts on the environment. A violation of these laws and regulations or permit conditions can result in substantial fines, natural resource damages, criminal sanctions, permit revocations and/or facility shutdowns, liability for the costs of investigation or remediation and for damages to natural resources. Our operating subsidiaries may also be subject to related claims by private parties alleging property damage and personal injury due to exposure to hazardous or other materials from those plants, and ABE may have exposures to such claims arising from its management services.

Environmental issues, such as contamination and compliance with applicable environmental standards, could arise at any time during operation of an ethanol plant. If this occurs, our operating subsidiaries could be required to spend significant resources to remedy the issues and may limit operation of the ethanol plant. Our operating subsidiaries may be liable for the investigation and cleanup of environmental contamination that might exist or could occur at each of the properties that they own or operate where they handle hazardous substances. If these substances have been or are disposed of or released at sites that undergo investigation or remediation by regulatory agencies, our operating subsidiaries may be responsible under the CERCLA (otherwise known as the "Superfund Act") or other environmental laws for all or part of the costs of investigation and/or remediation, and for damages to natural resources. Our operating subsidiaries may also be subject to related claims by private parties, including our employees and property owners or residents near their plant, alleging property damage and personal injury due to exposure to hazardous or other materials at or from those plants. Additionally, employees, property owners or residents near our ethanol plants could object to the air emissions or water discharges from our ethanol plants. Ethanol production has been known to produce an unpleasant odor. Environmental and public nuisance claims or toxic tort claims could be brought against us as a result of this odor or their other releases to the air or water. Some of these matters may require us to expend significant resources for investigation, cleanup, installation of control technologies or other compliance-related items, or other costs.

Additionally, the hazards and risks associated with producing and transporting our products (such as fires, natural disasters, explosions, abnormal pressures and blowouts) may also result in personal injury claims by third parties or damage to property owned by us or by third parties. We could sustain losses for uninsurable or uninsured events, or in amounts in excess of existing insurance coverage. Events that result in significant personal injury to third parties or damage to property owned by us or third parties or other losses that are not fully covered by insurance could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

We also cannot ensure that our operating subsidiaries will be able to comply with all necessary permits to continue to operate their ethanol plants. Failure to comply with all applicable permits and licenses could subject our operating subsidiaries to future claims or increase costs and materially adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition. Additionally, environmental laws and regulations, both at the federal and state level, are subject to change and such changes can be made retroactively. Consequently, even if our operating subsidiaries obtain the required permits, they may be required to invest or spend considerable resources to comply with future environmental regulations or new or modified interpretations of those regulations, which could materially adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition. Present and future

environmental laws and regulations (and interpretations thereof) applicable to the operations of our operating subsidiaries, more vigorous enforcement policies and discovery of currently unknown conditions may require substantial expenditures that could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Our employees are exposed to the physical hazards of heights, rotating, motorized mechanical and mobile machinery, and equipment and chemicals. Despite procedures, training, physical and engineered barriers and preventative measures, we may still be exposed to liabilities of OSHA fines and incur potential punitive damages as a result of employee injuries that fall outside the workman's compensation program and insurable losses.

## **RISKS RELATED TO TAX ISSUES**

***Income allocations assigned to unitholder units may result in taxable income in excess of cash distributions, which means unitholders may have to pay income tax on their investment with personal funds.***

Unitholders will be required to pay tax on their allocated shares of our taxable income. It is likely that a unitholder will receive allocations of taxable income in certain years that result in a tax liability that is in excess of any cash distributions we may make to the unitholder. Among other things, this result might occur due to accounting methodology, lending covenants that restrict our ability to pay cash distributions, or our decision to retain the cash generated by the business to fund our operating activities and obligations. In the event unitholders have used prior tax losses to offset non-ABE taxable income, the use of these losses may result in future tax liability.

***IRS classification of the company as a corporation rather than as a partnership would result in higher taxation and reduced profits.***

We are a Delaware limited liability company that has elected to be taxed as a partnership for federal and state income tax purposes, with income, gain, loss, deduction and credit passed through to the holders of the units. However, if for any reason the IRS successfully determines that we should be taxed as a corporation rather than as a partnership, we would be taxed on our net income at rates of up to 35% for federal income tax purposes, and all items of our income, gain, loss, deduction and credit would be reflected only on our tax returns and would not be passed through to the holders of the units. If we were to be taxed as a corporation for any reason, distributions we make to investors will be treated as ordinary dividend income to the extent of our earnings and profits, and the payment of dividends would not be deductible by us, thus resulting in double taxation of our earnings and profits. If we pay taxes as a corporation, we will have less cash to distribute to our unitholders. Treatment of our company as a corporation for tax purposes could materially adversely affect our business and financial condition.

***We might elect to convert our entity status from a limited liability company to a corporation, which would increase our tax burden.***

Although we have no current plans to convert to a corporation, our company might elect in the future to convert to a corporation. If we convert to a corporation, no profits will be allocable to unitholders, there will be no tax liability to our unitholders unless we pay a dividend and our company, as a result, would not make tax distributions to our unitholders with respect to these allocable profits. Conversion to a corporation would require an approval by member vote pursuant to our operating agreement. If we elect to be organized as a corporation, we will be subject to Subchapter C of the Internal Revenue Code. We would be taxed on our net income at rates of up to 35% for federal income tax purposes, and all items of our income, gain, loss, deduction and credit would be reflected only on our tax returns and would not be passed through to the unitholders. Distributions, if made to investors, would be treated as ordinary dividend income to the extent of our earnings and profits, and the payment of dividends would not be deductible by us, resulting in double taxation of our earnings and profits. If we pay taxes as a corporation, we will also have less cash to distribute to our unitholders. Treatment of our company as a corporation for tax purposes could materially adversely affect our business and financial condition.

***The IRS may classify your investment as a passive activity, resulting in the inability of unitholders to deduct losses associated with their investment.***

It is likely that an investor's interest in us will be treated as a "passive activity" for tax purposes. If an investor is an individual, estate, trust or a closely held corporation, and if the investor's interest is deemed to be a "passive activity," then the investor's allocated share of any loss we incur will be deductible only against income or gains the investor has earned from other passive activities. Passive activity losses that are disallowed in any taxable year are suspended and may be carried forward and used as an offset against passive activity income in future years. These rules could restrict a unitholder's ability to currently deduct any of our losses that are passed through to such unitholder.

***An IRS audit could result in adjustments to our allocations of income, gain, loss and deduction, causing additional tax liability to unitholders.***

The IRS may audit our income tax returns and may challenge positions taken for tax purposes and allocations of income, gain, loss and deduction to investors. If the IRS were successful in challenging our allocations in a manner that reduces loss or increases income allocable to unitholders, our unitholders may have additional tax liabilities. In addition, such an audit could lead to separate audits of a unitholder's tax returns, especially if adjustments are required, which could result in adjustments on unitholders' tax returns. Any of these events could result in additional tax liabilities, penalties and interest to unitholders, and the cost of filing amended tax returns.

## **ITEM 2. PROPERTIES**

The table below provides a summary of our ethanol plants in operation as of September 30, 2011. We currently own each of these facilities.

| Location                  | Opened         | Estimated<br>Annual Ethanol<br>Production<br>(Million gallons) | Estimated<br>Annual<br>Distillers<br>Grains<br>Production(1)<br>(000's Tons) | Estimated<br>Annual Corn<br>Processed<br>(Million bushels) | Primary<br>Energy Source | Builder |
|---------------------------|----------------|--|--|--|--------------------------|---------|
| Fairmont, NE . . . . .    | November 2007  | 110  | 334  | 39.3   | Natural Gas              | Fagen   |
| Aberdeen, SD(2) . . . . . | December 1992  | 9  | 27   | 3.2  | Natural Gas              | Broin   |
| Aberdeen, SD(2) . . . . . | January 2008   | 44   | 134  | 15.7   | Natural Gas              | ICM     |
| Huron, SD . . . . .       | September 1999 | 32   | 97   | 11.4   | Natural Gas              | ICM     |
| Consolidated . . . . .    |                | <u>195</u>   | <u>592</u>   | <u>69.6</u>  |                          |         |

- (1) Our plants produce and sell wet, modified, and dried distillers grains. The stated quantities are on a fully dried basis operating at nameplate capacity.
- (2) Our plant at Aberdeen consists of two production facilities that operate on a separate basis.

We have entered into a new lease agreement for our corporate headquarters as of February 2011. Our new corporate headquarters, located in Bloomington, Minnesota, is approximately 4,400 square feet, and will be under lease until June 2016. This building provides offices for our corporate and administrative staff. We believe this space will be sufficient for our needs until the end of the lease period.

| <u>Location</u>    | <u>Owned/Leased</u> | <u>Square Feet</u> |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Fairmont, NE ..... | Owned               | 134,850            |
| Aberdeen, SD ..... | Owned               | 94,002             |
| Huron, SD .....    | Owned               | 44,082             |

We believe that each of the operating facilities is in adequate condition to meet our current and future production goals. We believe that these plants are adequately insured for replacement cost plus related disruption expenditures.

The senior creditor of the Fairmont plant is secured by a first mortgage on the plant real estate and a lien on the site's personal property. We also granted a subordinate lien and security interest to the trustee of the subordinated exempt facilities revenue bonds used to finance the Fairmont plant. We pledged a first-priority security interest and first lien on substantially all of the assets of the South Dakota plants to the collateral agent for the senior creditor of these plants.

### **ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

None.

### **ITEM 4. [REMOVED AND RESERVED.]**

### **ITEM X. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT**

The Company's sole executive officer is:

| <u>Name</u>               | <u>Employee Since</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Position</u>   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------|---|
| Richard R. Peterson ..... | 2006                  | 46         | President, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer |

Mr. Peterson joined our company as vice president of accounting and finance and chief financial officer in November 2006. He was named interim chief executive officer in October 2008, and chief executive officer in December 2008. From July 2001 until November 2006, Mr. Peterson served as the director of finance, North American Operations for Nilfisk Advance, Inc., a manufacturer of commercial and industrial cleaning equipment. Prior to joining Nilfisk Advance, Mr. Peterson served as the chief financial officer for PPT Vision, Inc., a manufacturer of 2D and 3D vision inspection equipment from April 1999 to July 2001 and the chief financial officer of Premis Corporation, a point-of-sale software development company from December 1996 to April 1999.

## **PART II**

### **ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED UNITHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES**

#### **Market Information**

There is no established trading market for our membership units. Our membership units are subject to substantial transfer restrictions pursuant to our operating agreement, which prohibits transfers without the approval of our board of directors. The board of directors will not approve transfers unless they fall within "safe harbors" contained in the publicly traded partnership rules under the tax code, which include, without limitation, the following:

- transfers by gift to the member's descendants;
- transfers upon the death of a member;
- transfers between family members; and
- transfers that comply with the "qualifying matching services" requirements.

#### **Holders**

There were 1,210 holders of record of our units as of December 1, 2011.

#### **Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities**

We did not make any purchases of our equity securities during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2011.

#### **Distributions**

We did not make any distributions in the fiscal years ended September 30, 2011 or 2010 with the exception of a deemed distribution related to Nebraska withholding taxes on our non-resident unitholders. Subject to any loan covenants or restrictions with any lenders, we may elect to make future distributions to our members in proportion to the units that each member holds relative to the total number of units outstanding. However, there can be no assurance that we will ever be able to pay any distributions to our unitholders. Our board may elect to retain future profits to provide operational financing for the plants, debt retirement, implementation of new technology and various expansion plans, including the possible construction of additional plants and development of new product lines. Additionally, our lenders may further restrict our ability to make distributions. Unitholders will be required to report on their income tax return their allocable share of the income, gains, losses and deductions we have recognized without regard to whether we make any cash distributions to our members.

#### **Performance Graph**

As disclosed above under "Market Information" and elsewhere in this Form 10-K, there is no established trading market for our membership units, which are subject to substantial transfer restrictions pursuant to our operating agreement. Given that our units are not publicly traded on an exchange or any over-the-counter market and we have very limited valuation data on our membership units, we have omitted the performance graph showing the change in our unitholder return.

#### **Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities**

On May 11, 2011, the Compensation Committee of the Company's Board granted Nonqualified Stock Option and Unit Appreciation Rights ("May 2011 Award") to the Company's Chief Executive Officer Richard Peterson, giving him the option to purchase up to 150,000 Member Units at various prices, along with a right,

under certain circumstances, to exchange the May 2011 Award for a cash payment equal to the appreciation on the value of the Units over the exercise price. The Company believes the transaction was exempt under Section 4(2) of the Securities Act of 1933. A complete description of the 2011 Award is contained in Item 2 of the Company's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2011.

#### Securities Authorized for Issuance under Equity Compensation Plans

The only equity security that the Company has outstanding under an equity compensation plan are the May 11, 2011 Nonqualified Stock Option and Unit Appreciation Rights to the Company's Chief Executive Officer Richard Peterson. The following table provides information as of September 30, 2011 with respect to Company's Units under equity compensation plans.

| <u>Plan Category</u>  | <u>Number of securities to<br/>be issued upon exercise of<br/>outstanding options,<br/>warrants and rights</u> | <u>Weighted-average<br/>exercise price of<br/>outstanding options,<br/>warrants and rights</u> | <u>Number of securities<br/>remaining available for<br/>future issuance under<br/>equity compensation<br/>plans (excluding<br/>securities reflected in first<br/>column)</u> |
|---|--|--|--|
| Equity compensation plans approved by<br>security holders . . . . .     | None   | —  | None   |
| Equity compensation plans not approved by<br>security holders . . . . . | <u>150,000</u>   | \$3.00   | <u>None</u>  |
| Total . . . . .   | <u>150,000</u>   |  | <u>None</u>  |



## ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The following table presents selected consolidated financial and operating data as of the dates and for the periods indicated. The selected consolidated income statement data and other financial data for the years ended September 30, 2008 and 2007 and as of September 30, 2009, 2008 and 2007 have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements that are not included in this Form 10-K. The selected consolidated balance sheet financial data as of September 30, 2011 and 2010 and the selected consolidated income statement data and other financial data for each of the three years in the period ended September 30, 2011 have been derived from the audited Consolidated Financial Statements included elsewhere in this Form 10-K. You should read the following table in conjunction with Item 7 “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” and the consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes included elsewhere in this Form 10-K. Among other things, those financial statements include more detailed information regarding the basis of presentation for the following consolidated financial data.

|   | Years Ended September 30,                    |            |             |             |             |
|---|--|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|   | 2011   | 2010(2)    | 2009        | 2008(1)     | 2007        |
|   | (Dollars in thousands, except per unit data) |            |             |             |             |
| <b>Income statement data:</b>                           |  |            |             |             |             |
| Ethanol and related product sales                       | \$ 571,388                                   | \$ 379,909 | \$ 354,997  | \$ 393,746  | \$ 57,754   |
| Other revenues  | 358  | 670        | 719         | 612         | 623         |
| Total net sales   | 571,746                                      | 380,579    | 355,716     | 394,358     | 58,377      |
| Cost of goods sold                                      | 557,504                                      | 347,194    | 345,720     | 389,483     | 67,376      |
| Gross profit (loss)                                     | 14,242                                       | 33,385     | 9,996       | 4,875       | (8,999)     |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses            | 6,035  | 6,386      | 7,687       | 13,781      | 14,233      |
| Arbitration settlement expense                          | 3,791  | 960        | —           | —           | —           |
| Impairment of long-lived assets                         | —  | —          | 28,260      | 29,148      | —           |
| Operating income (loss)                                 | 4,416  | 26,039     | (25,951)    | (38,054)    | (23,232)    |
| Other income (expense)                                  | 935  | 470        | 870         | 786         | 297         |
| Gain on extinguishment of debt                          | —  | 17,660     | —           | —           | —           |
| Debt restructuring costs                                | —  | (2,149)    | (2,525)     | —           | —           |
| Interest expense  | (3,617)                                      | (10,888)   | (26,909)    | (20,583)    | (1,303)     |
| Interest income   | 75   | 89         | 217         | 611         | 977         |
| Net income (loss)                                       | 1,809  | 31,221     | (54,298)    | (57,240)    | (23,261)    |
| Less: net loss attributable to Noncontrolling interests | —  | —          | —           | —           | (1,771)     |
| Net income (loss) attributable to ABE                   | \$ 1,809                                     | \$ 31,221  | \$ (54,298) | \$ (57,240) | \$ (25,032) |
| Basic and diluted weighted units                        |  |            |             |             |             |
| outstanding   | 24,710,180                                   | 19,751,948 | 12,691,650  | 9,863,618   | 8,854,151   |
| Income (loss) per unit basic                            | \$ 0.07                                      | \$ 1.58    | \$ (4.28)   | \$ (5.80)   | \$ (2.83)   |
| Income (loss) per unit diluted                          | \$ 0.06                                      | \$ 1.58    | \$ (4.28)   | \$ (5.80)   | \$ (2.83)   |

|                                       | As of September 30, |           |           |           |          |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
|                                       | 2011                | 2010      | 2009      | 2008      | 2007     |
|                                       | (In thousands)      |           |           |           |          |
| <b>Balance sheet data:</b>            |                     |           |           |           |          |
| Cash and cash equivalents . . . . .   | \$ 18,725           | \$ 22,772 | \$ 26,367 | \$ 14,762 | \$ 7,111 |
| Property and equipment, net . . . . . | 164,821             | 181,701   | 203,364   | 251,611   | 242,937  |
| Total assets . . . . .                | 232,176             | 246,197   | 262,353   | 309,706   | 296,835  |
| Total debt . . . . .                  | 147,956             | 166,715   | 222,928   | 217,172   | 163,250  |
| Total equity . . . . .                | 65,646              | 63,818    | 21,789    | 67,425    | 92,954   |

- (1) The fiscal 2008 results include the ABE Fairmont facility opening in November 2007, and the Aberdeen plant expansion, which opened in January 2008.
- (2) The fiscal 2010 results include the ABE South Dakota debt restructuring.

## ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

### GENERAL

The following discussion and analysis provides information that management believes is relevant to an assessment and understanding of our consolidated financial condition and results of operations. This discussion should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements included herewith and the notes to the consolidated financial statements thereto and the risk factors contained herein.

### OVERVIEW

Advanced BioEnergy, LLC ("Company," "we," "our," "Advanced BioEnergy" or "ABE") was formed in 2005 as a Delaware limited liability company. Our business consists of producing ethanol and co-products, including wet, modified and dried distillers grains, as well as corn oil. Ethanol is a renewable, environmentally clean fuel source that is produced at numerous facilities in the United States, mostly in the Midwest. In the U.S., ethanol is produced primarily from corn and then blended with unleaded gasoline in varying percentages. Ethanol is most commonly sold as E10. Increasingly, ethanol is also available as E85, which is a higher percentage ethanol blend for use in flexible-fuel vehicles.

To execute our business plan, we entered into financial arrangements to build and operate ethanol production facilities in Fairmont, Nebraska. Separately, we acquired ABE South Dakota, LLC ("ABE South Dakota") f/k/a Heartland Grain Fuels, LP in November 2006, which owned existing ethanol production facilities in Aberdeen and Huron, South Dakota. We commenced construction of our Fairmont, Nebraska plant in June 2006, and commenced operations in November 2007. We commenced construction of our new facility in Aberdeen, South Dakota in April 2007, and commenced operations in January 2008. Our production operations are carried out primarily through our operating subsidiaries, ABE Fairmont which owns and operates the Fairmont, Nebraska plant and ABE South Dakota, which owns and operates plants in Aberdeen and Huron, South Dakota.

Operating segments are defined as components of an enterprise for which separate financial information is available that is evaluated regularly by the chief operating decision maker in deciding how to allocate resources in assessing performance. Based on the related business nature and expected financial results, the Company's plants are aggregated into one operating segment.

| Location                  | Opened         | Estimated<br>Annual Ethanol<br>Production<br>(Million gallons) | Estimated<br>Annual<br>Distillers<br>Grains<br>Production(1)<br>(000's Tons) | Estimated<br>Annual Corn<br>Processed<br>(Million bushels) | Primary<br>Energy Source | Builder |
|---------------------------|----------------|--|--|--|--------------------------|---------|
| Fairmont, NE . . . . .    | November 2007  | 110  | 334  | 39.3   | Natural Gas              | Fagen   |
| Aberdeen, SD(2) . . . . . | December 1992  | 9  | 27   | 3.2  | Natural Gas              | Broin   |
| Aberdeen, SD(2) . . . . . | January 2008   | 44   | 134  | 15.7   | Natural Gas              | ICM     |
| Huron, SD . . . . .       | September 1999 | 32   | 97   | 11.4   | Natural Gas              | ICM     |
| Consolidated . . . . .    |                | <u>195</u>   | <u>592</u>   | <u>69.6</u>  |                          |         |

- (1) Our plants produce and sell wet, modified, and dried distillers grains. The stated quantities are on a fully dried basis operating at full production capacity.
- (2) Our plant at Aberdeen consists of two production facilities that operate on a separate basis.

We believe that each of the operating facilities is in adequate condition to meet our current and future production goals. We believe that these plants are adequately insured for replacement cost plus related disruption expenditures.

## PLAN OF OPERATIONS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

Over the next year we will continue our focus on operational improvements at each of our operating facilities. These operational improvements include exploring methods to improve ethanol yield per bushel and increasing production output at each of our plants, continued emphasis on safety and environmental regulation, reducing our operating costs, and optimizing our margin opportunities through prudent risk-management policies. We plan to add corn oil extraction technology to our Aberdeen facility, and additional fermentation capacity at our Fairmont facility in 2012.

## RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

### *Year Ended September 30, 2011 Compared to Year Ended September 30, 2010*

The following table reflects quantities of our products sold at average net prices as well as bushels of corn ground and therms of gas burned at average costs for fiscal 2011 and fiscal 2010:

|   | Year Ended<br>September 30, 2011 |                           | Year Ended<br>September 30, 2010 |                           |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
|   | Sold/Consumed<br>(In thousands)  | Average<br>Net Price/Cost | Sold/Consumed<br>(In thousands)  | Average<br>Net Price/Cost |
| Ethanol (gallons) . . . . .                     | 198,454                          | \$ 2.40                   | 198,301                          | \$ 1.64                   |
| Dried distillers grains (tons) . . . . .        | 469                              | 161.73                    | 466                              | 93.14                     |
| Wet/modified distillers grains (tons) . . . . . | 294                              | 63.98                     | 322                              | 33.36                     |
| Corn (bushels) . . . . .                        | 70,705                           | 6.14                      | 71,006                           | 3.43                      |
| Gas (mmbtus) . . . . .                          | 5,459                            | 4.31                      | 5,429                            | 4.76                      |

### *Net Sales*

Net sales for the year ended September 30, 2011 were \$571.7 million, compared to \$380.6 million for the year ended September 30, 2010, an increase of \$191.1 million or 50%. During the years ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, 83% and 86%, respectively, of our net sales were derived from the sale of ethanol, and our remaining net sales were derived from the sale of distillers grains and corn oil.

Revenues increased due to a 46% rise in the average selling price per gallon of ethanol, from \$1.64 per gallon in the year ended September 30, 2010 to \$2.40 per gallon in the year ended September 30, 2011. The increase in prices was a result of rising corn and oil prices as well as ABE Fairmont ethanol sales being recorded at gross selling price. Prior to January 1, 2010, ABE Fairmont was not responsible for freight charges. This change took place when the Hawkeye Gold marketing agreement became effective on January 1, 2010. Average distillers grains selling prices per ton increased 81%, in the year ended September 30, 2011 compared to September 30, 2010, primarily as a result of the increase in corn prices.

### *Cost of Goods Sold*

Cost of goods sold for the year ended September 30, 2011 was \$557.5 million, compared to \$347.2 million for the year ended September 30, 2010, an increase of \$210.3 million. Corn costs represented 78% and 70% of cost of sales for the years ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively. Natural gas costs represented 4% and 7% of cost of sales for the years ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

Corn prices rose from an average price in 2010 of \$3.43, to a 2011 average of \$6.14 per bushel. The increase in corn prices was primarily due to a less favorable corn crop from the prior year, world-wide commodity inflation, and generally lower corn availability. The Company believes that corn prices will remain high in the next fiscal year. Corn usage decreased due to improved production yields, and natural gas usage increased slightly due to a shift in marketing of distillers grains to more dried and less wet/modified. The cost of natural gas per mmbtu also decreased 10% in the year ended September 30, 2011, compared to the year ended September 30, 2010. The 2011 cost of sales includes a \$0.7 million corn-related hedge loss compared to a

negligible loss in 2010. ABE Fairmont now recognizes ethanol freight in cost of goods sold pursuant to the Hawkeye Gold agreement which commenced on January 1, 2010. Ethanol freight costs totaled \$28 million for the year ended September 30, 2011 compared to \$12.0 million for the same period in 2010. Prior to January 1, 2010, ethanol freight cost would have been reflected as a reduction in sales revenues.

### ***Gross Profit***

Our gross profit for the year ended September 30, 2011 was \$14.2 million, compared to \$33.4 million for the year ended September 30, 2010. Our gross profit fluctuations are primarily driven by the volatile selling prices of ethanol and distillers grains less the input costs of corn and, to a lesser extent, natural gas. Ethanol prices increased 46% net of commission in the year ended September 30, 2011 compared to the same period in 2010, while corn costs increased 79%.

### ***Selling, General, and Administrative Expenses***

Overall selling, general and administrative costs decreased approximately \$0.4 million, or 5.5%, to \$6.0 million for the year ended September 30, 2011 compared to the year ended September 30, 2010. Selling, general and administrative expenses are comprised primarily of recurring administrative personnel compensation, legal, technology, consulting, insurance and accounting fees. As a percentage of sales, selling, general and administrative expenses are approximately 1.1% of sales in the year ended September 30, 2011 and approximately 1.7% of sales in the year ended September 30, 2010.

### ***Arbitration Settlement Expense***

For the year ended September 30, 2011, the Company recorded a \$3.0 million charge related to settlement of arbitration proceedings brought by a former officer, as well of \$0.8 million of non-recurring legal expense. For the year ended September 30, 2010, the Company recorded \$1.0 million of non-recurring legal expense related to the arbitration proceedings.

### ***Other Income***

Other income for the year ended September 30, 2011 was \$0.9 million, compared to \$0.5 million for the year ended September 30, 2010. The increase was due to a non-recurring refund of certain restructuring fees of \$0.1 million, and increased Nebraska Advantage Act refunds of \$0.4 million, as described below under "Government Programs, Tax Credits and Tax Increment Financing." Other income also includes patronage dividends.

### ***Gain on Extinguishment of Debt***

Effective June 18, 2010, ABE South Dakota entered into a troubled debt restructuring agreement with its lenders. In the restructuring, the outstanding principal amount of the loans and certain other amounts under interest rate protection agreements under the senior credit facility were converted to a senior term loan in an aggregate principal amount equal to \$84.3 million. The interest accrued on outstanding term and working capital loans under the existing credit agreement was reduced to zero. ABE South Dakota paid \$2.25 million and the remaining \$601,000 of net funds in the restricted cash accounts in full satisfaction of the \$19.0 million owed with respect to certain subordinated solid waste revenue bonds and accrued interest of \$1.5 million, resulting in a gain on extinguishment of debt of \$17.7 million. See Note 5 to the financial statements.

### ***Debt Restructuring Costs***

The Company incurred legal and professional services fees related to the restructuring of ABE South Dakota debt of \$0 million and \$2.1 million in the years ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

### ***Interest Expense***

Interest expense for the year ended September 30, 2011 was \$3.6 million, compared to \$10.9 million for the year ended September 30, 2010, a decrease of \$7.3 million. The decrease in interest expense is a result of the overall reduction in principal and a reduction in interest rates on ABE South Dakota's debt after the June 2010 restructuring, as well as scheduled principal payments and sweep payments as required under the credit agreements. As of September 30, 2010, the total principal outstanding was \$166.7 million, decreasing to \$148.0 million at September 30, 2011. The interest rates on the senior credit facility for ABE South Dakota decreased from a variable rate of 1.81% at September 30, 2010 to a variable rate of 1.75% at September 30, 2011. Prior to the restructuring in June 2010, ABE South Dakota was paying fixed rates between 8.27% and 10.00%. The interest expense at September 30, 2011 also reflects a reduction in interest expense resulting from the amortization of deferred gain that resulted from the debt restructuring.

### ***Year Ended September 30, 2010 Compared to Year Ended September 30, 2009***

The following table reflects quantities of our products sold at average net prices as well as bushels of corn ground and therms of gas burned at average costs for fiscal 2010 and fiscal 2009:

|   | <b>Year Ended September 30, 2010</b> |                       | <b>Year Ended September 30, 2009</b> |                       |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
|   | <b>Sold/Consumed</b>                 | <b>Average</b>        | <b>Sold/Consumed</b>                 | <b>Average</b>        |
|   | <b>(In thousands)</b>                | <b>Net Price/Cost</b> | <b>(In thousands)</b>                | <b>Net Price/Cost</b> |
| Ethanol (gallons) .....                     | 198,301                              | \$ 1.64               | 188,291                              | \$ 1.53               |
| Dried distillers grains (tons) .....        | 466                                  | 93.14                 | 352                                  | 120.48                |
| Wet/modified distillers grains (tons) ..... | 322                                  | 33.36                 | 530                                  | 47.33                 |
| Corn (bushels) .....                        | 71,006                               | 3.43                  | 68,349                               | 3.79                  |
| Gas (mmbtus) .....                          | 5,429                                | 4.76                  | 5,086                                | 4.14                  |

### ***Net Sales***

Net sales for the year ended September 30, 2010 were \$380.6 million, compared to \$355.7 million for the year ended September 30, 2009, an increase of \$24.9 million or 7%. During the years ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, 86% and 81%, respectively, of our net sales were derived from the sale of ethanol, and our remaining net sales were derived from the sale of distillers grains.

The sales increase is the result of a 5% increase, or an additional 10 million gallons, of ethanol sold from the year ended September 30, 2009 to September 30, 2010, due to optimized production at the Fairmont and Aberdeen plants. Revenues also increased due to the average selling price per gallon of ethanol increasing from \$1.53 per gallon in the year ended September 30, 2009 to \$1.64 per gallon in the year ended September 30, 2010. The increase in prices was a result of rising ethanol demand as well as ABE Fairmont ethanol sales being recorded at gross selling price. Prior to January 1, 2010, ABE Fairmont was not responsible for freight charges. This change took place when the Hawkeye Gold marketing agreement became effective on January 1, 2010. Dried and wet/modified distillers grains selling prices per ton decreased 23% and 30%, respectively, in the year ended September 30, 2010 compared to September 30, 2009, as a result of saturated local and regional markets, and a reduction in corn prices.

### ***Cost of Goods Sold***

Cost of goods sold for the year ended September 30, 2010 was \$347.2 million, compared to \$345.7 million for the year ended September 30, 2009, an increase of \$1.5 million. Corn costs represented 70% and 75% of cost of sales for the years ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, respectively. Natural gas costs represented 7% and 6% of cost of sales for the years ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

Corn prices fell from an average price in 2009 of \$3.79, to the 2010 average price of \$3.43 a bushel. Corn and natural gas usage increased due to the increased production. The shift in marketing of distillers grains to

more dried and less wet/modified, increased the usage of natural gas by 7% compared to a 7% increase in ethanol production, and the cost per mmbtu also increased 15% in the year ended September 30, 2010, compared to the year ended September 30, 2009. The 2009 cost of sales includes a \$3.2 million corn-related hedge loss compared to a \$49,000 loss in 2010. ABE Fairmont now recognizes ethanol freight in cost of goods sold pursuant to the Hawkeye Gold agreement which commenced on January 1, 2010. Ethanol freight costs totaled \$12.0 million for the year ended September 30, 2010 compared to \$0 for the same period in 2009. Prior to January 1, 2010, ethanol freight cost would have been reflected as a reduction in sales revenues.

### ***Gross Profit***

Our gross profit for the year ended September 30, 2010 was \$33.4 million, compared to \$10.0 million for the year ended September 30, 2009. Our gross profit fluctuations are primarily driven by the volatile selling prices of ethanol and distillers grains less the input costs of corn and, to a lesser extent, natural gas. Ethanol prices increased 7% net of commission in the year ended September 30, 2010 compared to the same period in 2009, while corn costs dropped 10%. Additionally, we sold 5% more gallons of ethanol in 2010.

### ***Selling, General, and Administrative Expenses***

Overall selling, general and administrative costs decreased approximately \$1.3 million, or 16.9%, to \$6.4 million for the year ended September 30, 2010 compared to the year ended September 30, 2009. As a percentage of sales, selling, general and administrative expenses were approximately 1.7% of sales in the year ended September 30, 2010 and approximately 2.2% of sales in the year ended September 30, 2009.

### ***Arbitration Settlement Expense***

For the year ended September 30, 2010, the Company recorded a \$1.0 million of legal expense related to arbitration proceedings brought by a former officer. For the year ended September 30, 2009, the Company recorded no expense related to the arbitration proceedings.

### ***Impairment of Long-Lived Assets***

The Company performed an impairment analysis of its assets and determined that no impairment existed for fiscal 2010. In 2009 the Company performed a fair market value analysis of ABE South Dakota and recorded a \$28.3 million impairment charge for the amount that the existing carrying value exceeded the estimated fair value of the assets.

### ***Gain on Extinguishment of Debt***

As noted above, effective June 18, 2010, ABE South Dakota entered into a troubled debt restructuring agreement with its lenders.

### ***Debt Restructuring Costs***

The Company incurred legal and professional services fees related to the restructuring of ABE South Dakota debt of \$2.1 million and \$2.5 million in the years ended September 30, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

### ***Interest Expense***

Interest expense for the year ended September 30, 2010 was \$10.9 million, compared to \$26.9 million for the year ended September 30, 2009, a decrease of \$16.0 million. The decrease was attributed to the prior year \$4.9 million write off of deferred financing costs originally recorded on ABE South Dakota debt that was in default and a \$4.2 million expense related to the termination of the interest rate swap agreements in December 2008. In May 2010, ABE borrowed \$3 million from ABE Fairmont and used cash on hand to pay off the

remaining balance on a secured term note issued to PJC Capital LLC (the PJC Capital Note), which also contributed to the reduction in interest expense. The Company was also able to decrease its interest expense by making principal payments and receiving a reduction of interest rate on the ABE South Dakota senior credit facility on April 1, 2010 as part of the restructuring agreement.

## **LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES**

We conduct our business activities and plant operations through Advanced BioEnergy, ABE Fairmont and ABE South Dakota. The liquidity and capital resources for each entity are based on the entity's existing financing arrangements and capital structure. ABE Fairmont has traditional project financing in place, including senior secured financing, working capital facilities and subordinate exempt-facilities revenue bonds. In June 2010, ABE South Dakota entered into the Senior Credit Agreement (as defined below), which eliminated the subordinated debt. There are provisions contained in the various financing agreements at each operating entity preventing cross-default or collateralization between operating entities. Advanced BioEnergy is highly restricted in its ability to use the cash and other financial resources of each subsidiary for the benefit of Advanced BioEnergy, with the exception of allowable distributions as defined in the separate financing agreements.

### ***Advanced BioEnergy, LLC ("ABE")***

ABE had cash and cash equivalents of \$3.5 million on hand at September 30, 2011. ABE does not have any debt outstanding as of September 30, 2011. ABE does not expect to make any distributions to its unit holders in the next 12 months. ABE's primary source of operating cash comes from charging a monthly management fee to ABE Fairmont and ABE South Dakota for services provided in connection with operating the ethanol plants. The primary management services provided include risk management, accounting and finance, human resources and other general management related responsibilities. From time to time, ABE may also receive certain allowable distributions from ABE Fairmont and ABE South Dakota based on the terms and conditions in their respective senior credit agreements. In fiscal 2012, ABE anticipates receiving a distribution from ABE Fairmont of approximately \$3.8 million based on the fiscal 2011 financial results of ABE Fairmont. This distribution is subject to ABE Fairmont remaining in compliance with all loan covenants and terms and conditions of its senior secured credit agreement. ABE does not expect any distribution from ABE South Dakota for its fiscal 2011 financial results.

We believe ABE has sufficient financial resources available to fund current operations and capital expenditure requirements for at least the next 12 months.

### ***ABE Fairmont***

ABE Fairmont had cash and cash equivalents of \$7.9 million and restricted cash of \$2.1 million on hand at September 30, 2011. The restricted cash is held in escrow for future debt service payments. As of September 30, 2011, ABE Fairmont had total debt outstanding of \$58.5 million consisting of \$52.3 million in senior secured credit and \$6.2 million of subordinate exempt-facilities revenue bonds. ABE Fairmont is required to make monthly interest payments on its senior secured credit and semi-annual interest payments on its outstanding subordinate exempt revenue bonds. ABE Fairmont is required to make quarterly principal payments of \$2.6 million on its senior secured credit, and annual principal payments of \$815,000 on the subordinate exempt facilities revenue bonds.

ABE Fairmont is allowed to make cash distributions to ABE if ABE Fairmont meets all conditions required in its senior secured credit agreement at the end of a fiscal year. This annual distribution may be up to 40% of net income calculated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and other terms contained in its senior secured credit agreement. Additionally, if ABE Fairmont has made the required free cash flow payment (described below) it may make a distribution up to 75% of net income. Any distribution is subject to the completion of ABE Fairmont's annual financial statement audit and ABE Fairmont remaining in compliance

with all loan covenants and terms and conditions of the senior secured credit agreement. The annual distribution based on ABE Fairmont fiscal 2011 financial results is approximately \$3.8 million. The distribution can be made anytime during fiscal 2012.

ABE Fairmont's senior secured credit agreement also requires an annual cash sweep subject to a free cash flow calculation, as defined in its senior secured credit agreement. The cash sweep requires that, for each fiscal year ending in 2010 through 2013, ABE Fairmont must make a payment equal to the lesser of \$8.0 million or 75% of its free cash flow after distributions, not to exceed \$16.0 million in the aggregate for all of the free cash flow payments. ABE Fairmont anticipates making a cash sweep payment of \$6.3 million in December 2011 for the fiscal 2011 financial results of ABE Fairmont. The cash sweep payment is subject to compliance with all loan covenants and terms and conditions of the senior secured credit agreement.

We believe ABE Fairmont has sufficient financial resources available to fund current operations and capital expenditure requirements for at least the next 12 months. In addition to the cash on hand, ABE Fairmont has a \$4.0 million revolving credit facility for financing eligible grain inventory and equity in Chicago Board of Trade futures positions. This credit facility expires April 1, 2012. ABE Fairmont had \$4.0 million available on the revolving credit facility as of September 30, 2011. ABE Fairmont also has a \$0.9 million revolving credit facility for financing third-party letters of credit, which expires on February 1, 2012. ABE Fairmont issued a letter of credit in connection with a rail car lease, reducing the financing available from the \$0.9 million revolving credit facility to \$0 as of September 30, 2011. We expect ABE Fairmont to renew both of these credit facilities upon expiration for an additional one-year term.

ABE Fairmont's senior secured credit facility agreement contains financial and restrictive covenants, including limitations on additional indebtedness, restricted payments, and the incurrence of liens and transactions with affiliates and sales of assets. In addition, the senior secured credit facility requires ABE Fairmont to comply with certain financial covenants, including maintaining monthly minimum working capital, monthly minimum net worth, annual debt service coverage ratios and capital expenditure limitations. ABE Fairmont was in compliance with all covenants at September 30, 2011.

### ***ABE South Dakota***

ABE South Dakota had cash and cash equivalents of \$7.4 million and \$3.4 million of restricted cash on hand at September 30, 2011. The restricted cash consists of \$3.0 million for a debt service payment reserve, \$0.4 million for the construction of certain rail infrastructure at its Huron, South Dakota ethanol facility, and \$0.04 million in an account for maintenance capital expenditures. As of September 30, 2011, ABE South Dakota had interest-bearing term debt outstanding of \$77.0 million.

In June 2010, ABE South Dakota entered into an Amended and Restated Senior Credit Agreement dated as of June 16, 2010 (the "Senior Credit Agreement") among ABE South Dakota, the lenders from time to time party thereto, and WestLB AG, New York Branch, as Administrative Agent and Collateral Agent. The principal amount of the term loan facility is payable in equal quarterly payments of \$750,000, with the remaining principal amount fully due and payable on March 31, 2016. Loans outstanding under the Senior Credit Agreement are subject to mandatory prepayment in certain circumstances, including, but not limited to, mandatory prepayments based upon receipt of certain proceeds of asset sales, casualty proceeds, termination payments, and cash flows.

ABE South Dakota has agreed to pay a \$3.0 million restructuring fee to the lender due at the earlier of March 31, 2016 and the date on which the loans are repaid in full. ABE South Dakota recorded the restructuring fee as long-term, non-interest bearing debt. See Note 5 to the consolidated financial statements for the effects of the restructuring.

ABE South Dakota's obligations under the Senior Credit Agreement are secured by a first-priority security interest in all of the equity in and assets of ABE South Dakota.



ABE South Dakota is allowed to make equity distributions (other than certain tax distributions) to ABE only upon ABE South Dakota meeting certain financial conditions and if there is no more than \$25 million of principal outstanding on the senior term loan.

The Senior Credit Agreement and the related loan documentation include, among other terms and conditions, limitations (subject to specified exclusions) on ABE South Dakota's ability to make asset dispositions; merge or consolidate with or into another person or entity; create, incur, assume or be liable for indebtedness; create, incur or allow liens on any property or assets; make investments; declare or make specified restricted payments or dividends; enter into new material agreements; modify or terminate material agreements; enter into transactions with affiliates; change its line of business; and establish bank accounts. Substantially all cash of ABE South Dakota is required to be deposited into special, segregated project accounts subject to security interests to secure obligations in connection with the Senior Credit Agreement. The Senior Credit Agreement contains customary events of default and also includes an event of default for defaults on other indebtedness by ABE South Dakota and certain changes of control. ABE South Dakota was in compliance with all covenants at September 30, 2011.

We believe ABE South Dakota has sufficient financial resources available to fund current operations, make debt service payments and fund capital expenditure requirement for at least the next 12 months.

## CASH FLOWS

The following table shows our cash flows for the years ended September 30:

|   | Years Ended September 30 |                |                |
|---|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|   | 2011                     | 2010           | 2009           |
|   | (In thousands)           | (In thousands) | (In thousands) |
| Net cash provided by operating activities .....           | \$ 18,037                | \$ 31,583      | \$19,169       |
| Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities ..... | (4,158)                  | 144            | (3,344)        |
| Net cash used in financing activities .....               | (17,926)                 | (35,322)       | (4,220)        |

### Cash Flow from Operations

Our cash flows from operations for the year ended September 30, 2011 were lower compared to the same period in 2010, primarily due to decreased margins during fiscal 2011 and a higher inventory value at September 30, 2011 resulting from increased corn prices in 2011.

### Cash Flow from Investing Activities

We used more cash in investing activities in the year ended September 30, 2011, compared to 2010, primarily due to capital expenditures for installation of corn oil extraction equipment at our Fairmont facility, as well as expansion of our rail handling capabilities in Huron.

### Cash Flow from Financing Activities

We used significantly less cash for financing activities during the year ended September 30, 2011, compared to 2010. This was due to the restructuring of the debt in ABE South Dakota in June 2010, which resulted in a reduction of outstanding principal.

## CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS

A summary of debt is as follows (in thousands, except percentages):

|  | September 30,<br>2011<br>Interest Rate | September 30,<br>2011 | September 30,<br>2010 |
|--|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>ABE Fairmont:</b>                                 |  |                       |                       |
| Senior credit facility—variable .....                | 3.64%                                  | \$ 32,266             | \$ 45,050             |
| Senior credit facility—fixed .....                   | 7.53%                                  | 20,000                | 20,000                |
| Seasonal line .....                                  | 3.35%                                  | —                     | —                     |
| Subordinate exempt facilities bonds—fixed .....      | 6.75%                                  | 6,185                 | 7,000                 |
|  |  | 58,451                | 72,050                |
| <b>ABE South Dakota:</b>                             |  |                       |                       |
| Senior debt principal—variable .....                 | 1.75%                                  | 77,052                | 81,352                |
| Restructuring fee .....                              | N/A                                    | 3,000                 | 3,000                 |
| Additional carrying value of restructured debt ..... | N/A                                    | 9,453                 | 10,313                |
|  |  | 89,505                | 94,665                |
| Total outstanding .....                              |  | \$147,956             | \$166,715             |
| Additional carrying value of restructured debt ..... | N/A                                    | (9,453)               | (10,313)              |
| Stated principal .....                               |  | \$138,503             | \$156,402             |

The estimated maturities of debt at September 30, as follows (in thousands):

|                  | Stated<br>Principal | Amortization of<br>Additional Carrying<br>Value of<br>Restructured Debt | Total     |
|------------------|---------------------|---|-----------|
| 2012 .....       | \$ 20,541           | \$1,162   | \$ 21,703 |
| 2013 .....       | 14,215              | 2,114   | 16,329    |
| 2014 .....       | 8,955               | 2,542   | 11,497    |
| 2015 .....       | 13,815              | 2,447   | 16,262    |
| 2016 .....       | 78,867              | 1,188   | 80,055    |
| Thereafter ..... | 2,110               | —   | 2,110     |
| Total debt ..... | \$138,503           | \$9,453   | \$147,956 |

## CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

The following table summarizes our contractual obligations as of September 30, 2011.

|   | Years Ending September 30, |          |          |          |          |            | Total     |
|---|----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|-----------|
|   | 2012                       | 2013     | 2014     | 2015     | 2016     | Thereafter |           |
| Long-Term Debt obligations(1) ....      | \$24,922                   | \$19,045 | \$13,848 | \$17,855 | \$80,644 | \$ 2,221   | \$158,535 |
| Operating lease obligations(2) ....     | 5,526                      | 3,274    | 2,316    | 2,162    | 2,128    | 9,435      | 24,841    |
| Commodity purchase obligations(3) ..... | 42,735                     | —        | —        | —        | —        | —          | 42,735    |
| Total contractual obligations .....     | \$73,183                   | \$22,319 | \$16,164 | \$20,017 | \$82,772 | \$11,656   | \$226,111 |

(1) Amounts represent principal and interest due under our credit facilities.

(2) Operating lease obligations consist primarily of rail cars and office space.

(3) Commodity obligations include corn purchases for our production facilities.

## **SUMMARY OF CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES**

Note 1 to our consolidated financial statements contains a summary of our significant accounting policies, many of which require the use of estimates and assumptions. Accounting estimates are an integral part of the preparation of financial statements and are based upon management's current judgment. We use our knowledge and experience about past events and certain future assumptions to make estimates and judgments involving matters that are inherently uncertain and that affect the carrying value of our assets and liabilities. We believe that of our significant accounting policies, the following are noteworthy because changes in these estimates or assumptions could materially affect our financial position and results of operations:

### ***Revenue Recognition***

Ethanol revenue is recognized when product title and all risk of ownership is transferred to the customer as specified in the contractual agreements with the marketers. At all our plants, revenue is recognized upon the release of the product for shipment. Revenue from the sale of co-products is recorded when title and all risk of ownership transfers to customers, which generally occurs at the time of shipment. Co-products and related products are generally shipped free on board (FOB) shipping point. Interest income is recognized as earned. In accordance with the Company's agreements for the marketing and sale of ethanol and related products, commissions due to the marketers are deducted from the gross sale price at the time of payment.

### ***Fair Value Measurements***

In determining fair value of its derivative financial instruments and warrant liabilities, the Company uses various methods including market, income and cost approaches. Based on these approaches, the Company often utilizes certain assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability, including assumptions about risk and the risks inherent in the inputs to the valuation technique. These inputs can be readily observable, market-corroborated, or generally unobservable inputs. Financial assets and liabilities carried at fair value will be classified and disclosed in one of the following three fair-value hierarchy categories:

*Level 1:* Valuations for assets and liabilities traded in active markets from readily available pricing sources for market transactions involving identical assets or liabilities.

*Level 2:* Valuations for assets and liabilities traded in less-active dealer or broker markets. Valuations are obtained from third-party pricing services for identical or similar assets or liabilities.

*Level 3:* Valuations incorporate certain assumptions and projections in determining the fair value assigned to such assets or liabilities.

Commodity futures and exchange-traded commodity options contracts are reported at fair value using Level 1 inputs. For these contracts, the Company obtains fair-value measurements from an independent pricing service. The fair-value measurements consider observable data that may include dealer quotes and live-trading levels from the Chicago Board of Trade ("CBOT") and New York Mercantile Exchange ("NYMEX") markets.

### ***Derivative Instruments/Due From Broker***

On occasion, the Company has entered into derivative contracts to hedge the Company's exposure to price risk related to forecasted corn purchases and forecasted ethanol sales. Accounting for derivative contracts requires that an entity recognize all derivatives as either assets or liabilities in the statement of financial position and measure those instruments at fair value. If certain conditions are met, a derivative may be specifically designated as (a) a hedge of the exposure to changes in the fair value of a recognized asset or liability or an unrecognized firm commitment, (b) a hedge of the exposure to variable cash flows of a forecasted transaction, or (c) a hedge of the foreign currency exposure of a net investment in a foreign operation, an unrecognized firm commitment, an available-for-sale security, or a foreign-currency-denominated forecasted transaction.

Although the Company believes its derivative positions are economic hedges, none have been designated as a hedge for accounting purposes and derivative positions are recorded on the balance sheet at their fair market value, with changes in fair value recognized in current period earnings.

In addition, certain derivative financial instruments that meet the criteria for derivative accounting treatment also qualify for a scope exception to derivative accounting, as they are considered normal purchases and sales. The availability of this exception is based on the assumption that the Company has the ability and it is probable to deliver or take delivery of the underlying item. Derivatives that are considered to be normal purchases and sales are exempt from derivative accounting treatment, and are accounted for under accrual accounting.

### ***Inventories***

Corn, chemicals and supplies, work in process, ethanol and distillers grains inventories are stated at the lower of weighted average cost or market.

### ***Property and Equipment***

Property and equipment is carried at cost less accumulated depreciation computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives:

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Office equipment .....  | 3-7 Years |
| Process equipment ..... | 10 Years  |
| Buildings .....         | 40 Years  |

Maintenance and repairs are charged to expense as incurred; major improvements and betterments are capitalized. Long-lived assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount on the asset may not be recoverable. An impairment loss would be recognized when estimated undiscounted future cash flows from operations are less than the carrying value of the asset group. An impairment loss would be measured by the amount by which the carrying value of the asset exceeds the estimated fair market value.

### **INTEREST RATE/FOREIGN EXCHANGE RISK**

Our future earnings may be affected by changes in interest rates due to the impact those changes have on our interest expense on borrowings under our credit facility. As of September 30, 2011, we had \$109.3 million of outstanding borrowings with variable interest rates. With each 1% increase in interest rates we will incur additional annual interest charges of \$1.1 million.

We have no international sales. Substantially all of our purchases are denominated in U.S. dollars.

### **IMPACT OF INFLATION**

We believe that inflation has not had a material impact on our results of operations since inception. We cannot ensure that inflation will not have an adverse impact on our operating results and financial condition in future periods.

### **OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS**

We have no off-balance sheet arrangements.

### **GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, TAX CREDITS AND TAX INCREMENT FINANCING**

We have applied for income and sales tax incentives available under a Nebraska Advantage Act Project Agreement. As of September 30, 2011, we have received approximately \$4.2 million in refunds under the

Nebraska Advantage Act. We anticipate earning investment credits for certain sales taxes paid on construction costs, up to 10% of the cost of the Fairmont plant construction, and up to 10% of new asset additions. These investment credits can be used to offset Nebraska sales, use, and income tax. Under the Nebraska Advantage Act, we also anticipate earning employment credits for 5% of the annual costs of the newly created employment positions, which can be used to offset future payroll taxes. We will continue to earn additional investment and employment credits under the Nebraska Advantage Act through the tax year ended September 30, 2014. These credits can be carried over until used, but will expire on September 30, 2020. Although we may apply under several programs simultaneously and may be awarded grants or other benefits from more than one program, some combinations of programs are mutually exclusive. Under some state and federal programs, awards are not made to applicants in cases where construction on the project has started prior to the award date. There is no guarantee that applications will result in awards of grants or credits or deductions.

In December 2006 we received net proceeds of \$6.7 million from tax incremental financing from the Village of Fairmont, Nebraska. We anticipate paying off the outstanding obligation with future property tax payments, assessed on the Fairmont plant.

The State of South Dakota pays an incentive to operators of ethanol plants to encourage the growth of the ethanol industry. The Huron plant is eligible to receive an aggregate of \$9.7 million, payable up to \$1 million per year. The amounts are dependent on annual allocations by the State of South Dakota and the number of eligible plants. ABE South Dakota received a payment of approximately \$357,000 for the Huron plant in fiscal 2011, but may not receive this incentive in fiscal 2012 unless the State allocates sufficient funds.

## ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

We consider market risk to be the impact of adverse changes in market prices on our results of operations. We are subject to significant market risk with respect to the price of ethanol and corn. For the year ended September 30, 2011, sales of ethanol represented 83% of our total revenues and corn costs represented 78% of total cost of goods sold. In general, ethanol prices are affected by the supply and demand for ethanol, the cost of ethanol production, the availability of other fuel oxygenates, the regulatory climate and the cost of alternative fuels such as gasoline. The price of corn is affected by weather conditions and other factors affecting crop yields, farmer planting decisions and general economic, market and regulatory factors. At September 30, 2011, the price per gallon of ethanol and the price per bushel of corn on the CBOT were \$2.485 and \$5.92, respectively.

We are also subject to market risk on the selling prices of our distillers grains, which represented 17% of our total revenues for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2011. These prices fluctuate seasonally when the price of corn or other cattle feed alternatives fluctuate in price. The average dried distillers grains spot price for local customers was \$182 per ton at September 30, 2011.

We are also subject to market risk with respect to our supply of natural gas that is consumed in the ethanol production process. Natural gas costs represented 4% of total cost of sales for the year ended September 30, 2011. The price of natural gas is affected by weather conditions and general economic, market and regulatory factors. At September 30, 2011, the price of natural gas on the NYMEX was \$3.67 per mmbtu.

To reduce price risk caused by market fluctuations in the cost and selling prices of related commodities, we have entered into forward purchase/sale contracts and derivative transactions. We entered into off-take agreements which guaranteed prices on 48% of our ethanol gallons sold through December 2011. At September 30, 2011 we had entered into forward sale contracts representing 45% of our expected distillers grains production and we had entered into forward purchase contracts representing 33% of our current corn requirements through December 2011. At September 30, 2011, we had entered into forward purchase contracts representing 47% of our gas requirements through December 2011.

The following represents a sensitivity analysis that estimates our annual exposure to market risk with respect to our current corn and natural gas requirements and ethanol sales. Market risk is estimated as the potential impact on operating income resulting from a hypothetical 10% change in the fair value of our current corn and natural gas requirements and ethanol sales, net of corn and natural gas forward contracts used to hedge market risk with respect to our current corn and natural gas requirements. The results of this analysis, which may differ from actual results, are as follows:

|                             | Estimated at<br>Risk<br>Volume(1)<br>(In millions) | Units   | Hypothetical<br>Change in<br>Price | Spot<br>Price(2) | Change in<br>Annual<br>Operating<br>Income<br>(In millions) |
|-----------------------------|--|---------|------------------------------------|------------------|---|
| Ethanol . . . . .           | 100.3  | gallons | 10.0%                              | \$ 2.49          | \$25.0  |
| Distillers grains . . . . . | 0.33   | tons    | 10.0%                              | 182.27           | 5.9   |
| Corn . . . . .              | 46.5   | bushels | 10.0%                              | 5.92             | 27.5  |
| Natural gas . . . . .       | 2.8  | mmbtus  | 10.0%                              | 3.67             | 1.0   |

- (1) The volume of ethanol at risk is based on the assumption that we will enter into contracts for 49% of our expected annual gallons capacity of 195 million gallons. The volume of distillers grains at risk is based on the assumption that we will enter into contracts for 45% of our expected annual distillers grains production of 592,000 tons. The volume of corn is based on the assumption that we will enter into forward contracts for 33% of our estimated current 69.6 million bushel annual requirement. The volume of natural gas is based on the assumption that we will continue to lock in 47% of our estimated gas usage
- (2) Current spot prices include the CBOT price per gallon of ethanol and the price per bushel of corn, the NYMEX price per mmbtu of natural gas and our listed local advertised dried distillers grains price per ton as of September 30, 2011.

**ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA**

**Financial Statements**

|   | <b><u>Page</u></b> |
|---|--------------------|
| <b>Advanced BioEnergy, LLC</b>  |                    |
| Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm .....               | 44                 |
| Financial Statements:   |                    |
| Consolidated Balance Sheets .....   | 45                 |
| Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income (Loss) ..... | 46                 |
| Consolidated Statement of Changes in Members' Equity .....                  | 47                 |
| Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows .....                                 | 48                 |
| Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements .....                            | 49                 |

## **Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

To the Board of Directors and Members  
Advanced BioEnergy, LLC

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Advanced BioEnergy, LLC & subsidiaries as of September 30, 2011 and 2010, and the related consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss), changes in members' equity and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended September 30, 2011. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the auditing standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The Company is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. Our audit included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Advanced BioEnergy, LLC & subsidiaries as of September 30, 2011 and 2010, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended September 30, 2011 in conformity with United States generally accepted accounting principles.

/s/ McGladrey & Pullen, LLP

Des Moines, Iowa  
December 28, 2011



# ADVANCED BIOENERGY, LLC & SUBSIDIARIES

## Consolidated Balance Sheets

|   | September 30,<br>2011  | September 30,<br>2010 |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------|
|   | (Dollars in thousands) |                       |
| ASSETS  |                        |                       |
| Current assets:   |                        |                       |
| Cash and cash equivalents . . . . .   | \$ 18,725              | \$ 22,772             |
| Accounts receivable:  |                        |                       |
| Trade accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$178 and \$255 at September 30, 2011 and September 30, 2010, respectively . . . . . | 14,653                 | 13,519                |
| Other receivables . . . . .   | 838                    | 1,543                 |
| Due from broker . . . . .   | 1,014                  | 252                   |
| Derivative financial instruments . . . . .  | —                      | 314                   |
| Inventories . . . . .   | 22,106                 | 14,102                |
| Prepaid expenses . . . . .  | 2,175                  | 2,666                 |
| Current portion of restricted cash . . . . .  | 3,959                  | 4,169                 |
| <b>Total current assets . . . . .</b>   | <b>63,470</b>          | <b>59,337</b>         |
| <b>Property and equipment, net . . . . .</b>  | <b>164,821</b>         | <b>181,701</b>        |
| Other assets:   |                        |                       |
| Restricted cash . . . . .   | 1,508                  | 3,145                 |
| Notes receivable-related party . . . . .  | 494                    | —                     |
| Other assets . . . . .  | 1,883                  | 2,014                 |
| <b>Total assets . . . . .</b>   | <b>\$ 232,176</b>      | <b>\$ 246,197</b>     |
| LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY   |                        |                       |
| Current liabilities:  |                        |                       |
| Accounts payable . . . . .  | \$ 6,688               | \$ 4,337              |
| Accrued expenses . . . . .  | 6,528                  | 5,818                 |
| Derivative financial instruments . . . . .  | 832                    | —                     |
| Current portion of long-term debt (stated principal amount of \$20,541 and \$19,199 at September 30, 2011 and September 30, 2010, respectively) . . . . . | 21,703                 | 20,045                |
| <b>Total current liabilities . . . . .</b>  | <b>35,751</b>          | <b>30,200</b>         |
| Other liabilities . . . . .   | 318                    | 628                   |
| Deferred income . . . . .   | 4,208                  | 4,881                 |
| Long-term debt (stated principal amount of \$117,962 and \$137,203 at September 30, 2011 and September 30, 2010, respectively) . . . . .                  | 126,253                | 146,670               |
| <b>Total liabilities . . . . .</b>  | <b>166,530</b>         | <b>182,379</b>        |
| Members' equity:  |                        |                       |
| Members' capital, no par value, 24,714,180 units issued and outstanding . . . . .   | 171,246                | 171,200               |
| Accumulated deficit . . . . .   | (105,600)              | (107,382)             |
| <b>Total members' equity . . . . .</b>  | <b>65,646</b>          | <b>63,818</b>         |
| <b>Total liabilities and members' equity . . . . .</b>  | <b>\$ 232,176</b>      | <b>\$ 246,197</b>     |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

**ADVANCED BIOENERGY, LLC & SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income (Loss)**

|  | Years Ended                                  |                       |                       |
|--|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|  | September 30,<br>2011                        | September 30,<br>2010 | September 30,<br>2009 |
|  | (Dollars in thousands, except per unit data) |                       |                       |
| <b>Net sales</b>                                     |  |                       |                       |
| Ethanol and related products . . . . .               | \$ 571,388                                   | \$ 379,909            | \$ 354,997            |
| Other . . . . .                                      | 358  | 670                   | 719                   |
| <b>Total net sales</b> . . . . .                     | 571,746                                      | 380,579               | 355,716               |
| Cost of goods sold . . . . .                         | 557,504                                      | 347,194               | 345,720               |
| <b>Gross profit</b> . . . . .                        | 14,242                                       | 33,385                | 9,996                 |
| Selling, general and administrative . . . . .        | 6,035  | 6,386                 | 7,687                 |
| Arbitration settlement expense . . . . .             | 3,791  | 960                   | —                     |
| Impairment of long-lived assets . . . . .            | —  | —                     | 28,260                |
| <b>Operating income (loss)</b> . . . . .             | 4,416  | 26,039                | (25,951)              |
| Other income . . . . .                               | 935  | 470                   | 870                   |
| Gain on extinguishment of debt . . . . .             | —  | 17,660                | —                     |
| Debt restructuring costs . . . . .                   | —  | (2,149)               | (2,525)               |
| Interest income . . . . .                            | 75   | 89                    | 217                   |
| Interest expense . . . . .                           | (3,617)                                      | (10,888)              | (26,909)              |
| <b>Net income (loss)</b> . . . . .                   | \$ 1,809                                     | \$ 31,221             | \$ (54,298)           |
| <b>Other comprehensive income:</b>                   |  |                       |                       |
| <b>Interest rate swap obligation</b> . . . . .       | —  | —                     | 1,786                 |
| <b>Comprehensive income (loss)</b> . . . . .         | \$ 1,809                                     | \$ 31,221             | \$ (52,512)           |
| Weighted average units outstanding—basic . . . . .   | 24,710,180                                   | 19,751,948            | 12,691,650            |
| Weighted average units outstanding—diluted . . . . . | 24,710,180                                   | 19,751,948            | 12,691,650            |
| Income (loss) per unit—basic . . . . .               | \$ 0.07                                      | \$ 1.58               | \$ (4.28)             |
| Income (loss) per unit—diluted . . . . .             | \$ 0.06                                      | \$ 1.58               | \$ (4.28)             |

See notes to consolidated financial statements

**ADVANCED BIOENERGY, LLC & SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Consolidated Statements of Changes in Members' Equity**  
**For the Years Ended September 30, 2011, 2010 and 2009**

|  | <u>Member<br/>Units</u> | <u>Member<br/>Capital</u> | <u>Accumulated<br/>Deficit</u> | <u>Accumulated<br/>Other<br/>Comprehensive<br/>Income (loss)</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------|
|  | (Dollars in thousands)  |                           |                                |  |              |
| <b>MEMBERS' EQUITY—September 30,</b>   |                         |                           |                                |  |              |
| <b>2008</b> .....  | 9,919,162               | \$153,516                 | \$ (84,305)                    | \$(1,786)  | \$ 67,425    |
| Issuance of previously subscribed units .....  | 2,750,000               | —                         | —                              | —  | —            |
| Issuance of 532,671 warrants in connection<br>with note payable .....  | —                       | 489                       | —                              | —  | 489          |
| Unit compensation expense, net of<br>contingently returnable units .....   | (10,000)                | 197                       | —                              | —  | 197          |
| Put options exercised .....  | (7,200)                 | (18)                      | —                              | —  | (18)         |
| Interest rate swap obligations .....   | —                       | —                         | —                              | 1,786  | 1,786        |
| Units issued in private offering, net of offering<br>costs of \$249,000 .....  | 3,333,333               | 4,751                     | —                              | —  | 4,751        |
| Units subscribed in private offering .....   | —                       | 1,457                     | —                              | —  | 1,457        |
| Net loss .....   | —                       | —                         | (54,298)                       | —  | (54,298)     |
| <b>MEMBERS' EQUITY—September 30,</b>   |                         |                           |                                |  |              |
| <b>2009</b> .....  | 15,985,295              | \$160,392                 | \$(138,603)                    | \$ —   | \$ 21,789    |
| Cumulative effect of change in accounting<br>principle—October 1, 2009 reclassification<br>of embedded feature of equity-linked<br>financial instrument to derivative warrant<br>liability ..... | —                       | (489)                     | —                              | —  | (489)        |
| Issuance of previously subscribed units .....  | 971,003                 | —                         | —                              | —  | —            |
| Unit compensation expense .....  | —                       | 47                        | —                              | —  | 47           |
| Put options exercised .....  | (2,000)                 | (3)                       | —                              | —  | (3)          |
| Units issued-private placement offerings, net<br>of offering expenses of \$387,000 .....   | 7,759,882               | 11,253                    | —                              | —  | 11,253       |
| Net income .....   | —                       | —                         | 31,221                         | —  | 31,221       |
| <b>MEMBERS' EQUITY—September 30,</b>   |                         |                           |                                |  |              |
| <b>2010</b> .....  | 24,714,180              | \$171,200                 | \$(107,382)                    | \$ —   | \$ 63,818    |
| Unit compensation expense .....  | —                       | 46                        | —                              | —  | 46           |
| Distribution-state tax withholdings .....  | —                       | —                         | (27)                           | —  | (27)         |
| Net income .....   | —                       | —                         | 1,809                          | —  | 1,809        |
| <b>MEMBERS' EQUITY—September 30,</b>   |                         |                           |                                |  |              |
| <b>2011</b> .....  | 24,714,180              | \$171,246                 | \$(105,600)                    | \$ —   | \$ 65,646    |

See notes to consolidated financial statements

# ADVANCED BIOENERGY, LLC & SUBSIDIARIES

## Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

|   | September 30,<br>2011  | Years Ended<br>September 30,<br>2010 | September 30,<br>2009 |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
|   | (Dollars in thousands) |                                      |                       |
| Cash flows from operating activities:                                     |                        |                                      |                       |
| Net income (loss) . . . . .   | \$ 1,809               | \$ 31,221                            | \$(54,298)            |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to operating activities cash flows:   |                        |                                      |                       |
| Depreciation . . . . .  | 22,539                 | 22,118                               | 19,233                |
| Asset impairment . . . . .  | —                      | —                                    | 28,260                |
| Gain on extinguishment of debt . . . . .                                  | —                      | (17,660)                             | —                     |
| Debt restructuring costs . . . . .  | —                      | 2,149                                | 2,525                 |
| Amortization of deferred financing costs . . . . .                        | 132                    | 132                                  | 5,493                 |
| Amortization of deferred income . . . . .                                 | (693)                  | (673)                                | (1,178)               |
| Idle lease liability reduction . . . . .                                  | (377)                  | (383)                                | —                     |
| Amortization of debt discount . . . . .                                   | —                      | (489)                                | —                     |
| Amortization of additional carrying value of debt . . . . .               | (860)                  | (242)                                | —                     |
| Unit compensation expense . . . . .                                       | 46                     | 47                                   | 197                   |
| Loss on disposal of assets . . . . .                                      | 7                      | —                                    | —                     |
| Unrealized gain on warrant derivative liability . . . . .                 | (292)                  | (15)                                 | —                     |
| Change in risk management activities . . . . .                            | 1,146                  | (314)                                | (1,242)               |
| Interest rate swap obligations . . . . .                                  | —                      | —                                    | 4,213                 |
| Change in working capital components:                                     |                        |                                      |                       |
| Accounts receivable . . . . .   | (1,191)                | (2,611)                              | 3,652                 |
| Inventories . . . . .   | (8,004)                | (6,484)                              | 5,969                 |
| Prepaid expenses . . . . .  | 491                    | (424)                                | (305)                 |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses . . . . .                           | 3,284                  | 5,211                                | 6,650                 |
| <b>Net cash provided by operating activities . . . . .</b>                | <b>18,037</b>          | <b>31,583</b>                        | <b>19,169</b>         |
| Cash flows from investing activities:                                     |                        |                                      |                       |
| Purchase of property and equipment . . . . .                              | (5,666)                | (455)                                | (1,006)               |
| Issuance of notes receivable . . . . .                                    | (494)                  | —                                    | —                     |
| Change in other assets and liabilities . . . . .                          | 155                    | —                                    | (2,478)               |
| Decrease in restricted cash . . . . .                                     | 1,847                  | 599                                  | 140                   |
| <b>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities . . . . .</b>      | <b>(4,158)</b>         | <b>144</b>                           | <b>(3,344)</b>        |
| Cash flows from financing activities:                                     |                        |                                      |                       |
| Payments on debt . . . . .  | (17,899)               | (44,423)                             | (10,885)              |
| Proceeds from long-term debt . . . . .                                    | —                      | —                                    | 3,000                 |
| Proceeds from issuance of membership units and subscribed units . . . . . | —                      | 11,640                               | 6,457                 |
| Distribution to members . . . . .   | (27)                   | —                                    | —                     |
| Offering costs paid . . . . .   | —                      | (387)                                | (249)                 |
| Repurchase of units . . . . .   | —                      | (3)                                  | (18)                  |
| Payments for debt restructuring costs . . . . .                           | —                      | (2,149)                              | (2,525)               |
| <b>Net cash used in financing activities . . . . .</b>                    | <b>(17,926)</b>        | <b>(35,322)</b>                      | <b>(4,220)</b>        |
| <b>Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents . . . . .</b>     | <b>(4,047)</b>         | <b>(3,595)</b>                       | <b>11,605</b>         |
| Beginning cash and cash equivalents . . . . .                             | 22,772                 | 26,367                               | 14,762                |
| Ending cash and cash equivalents . . . . .                                | <u>\$ 18,725</u>       | <u>\$ 22,772</u>                     | <u>\$ 26,367</u>      |
| <b>Supplemental disclosure of non cash transactions</b>                   |                        |                                      |                       |
| Unrealized gain on interest rate swap . . . . .                           | \$ —                   | \$ —                                 | \$ (1,786)            |
| Warrants issued in connection with debt restructuring . . . . .           | —                      | —                                    | 489                   |
| <b>Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:</b>                  |                        |                                      |                       |
| Cash paid for interest . . . . .  | \$ 4,461               | \$ 5,945                             | \$ 10,657             |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

**ADVANCED BIOENERGY, LLC & SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**1. Organization and Significant Accounting Policies**

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries, ABE Fairmont, LLC (“ABE Fairmont”) and ABE South Dakota, LLC, (formerly known as Heartland Grain Fuels, LP) (“ABE South Dakota”). All intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

The Company currently operates three ethanol production facilities in the U.S. with a combined production capacity of 195 million gallons per year. The Company commenced operations at the 110 million gallon facility in Fairmont, Nebraska in November 2007. The Company acquired existing facilities in Aberdeen and Huron, South Dakota in November 2006 and commenced operations at the 44 million gallon Aberdeen expansion facility in January 2009.

In September 2009, ABE South Dakota’s senior lenders commenced discussions with the Company to explore alternatives to foreclosing on ABE’s equity interest in ABE South Dakota, including a restructuring of the terms of its current borrowing arrangements with those lenders. The debt restructuring became effective June 18, 2010. See Note 5 for additional information.

***Cash, Cash Equivalents and Restricted Cash***

The Company considers all highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents. The Company’s cash balances are maintained in bank depositories and periodically exceed federally insured limits. The Company has not experienced losses in these accounts. The Company segregates cash restricted for debt service and has classified these funds according to the future anticipated use of the funds.

***Fair Value of Financial Instruments***

Financial instruments include cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash, interest rate swaps, derivative financial instruments, accounts receivable, accounts payable, accrued expenses, warrants, and long-term debt. The fair value of derivative financial instruments is based on quoted market prices. The fair value of warrants is determined using the Black-Scholes valuation model. The fair value of the long-term debt is estimated based on anticipated interest rates which management believes would currently be available to the Company for similar issues of debt, taking into account the current credit risk of the Company and other market factors. The Company believes the carrying value of the debt instruments at ABE Fairmont approximate fair value. Based on the restructuring event, the fair value of the debt instruments at ABE South Dakota is not determinable. The fair value of all other financial instruments is estimated to approximate carrying value due to the short-term nature of these instruments.

***Fair Value Measurements***

In determining fair value of its derivative financial instruments and warrant liabilities, the Company uses various methods including market, income and cost approaches. Based on these approaches, the Company often uses certain assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability, including assumptions about risk and the risks inherent in the inputs to the valuation technique. These inputs can be readily observable, market-corroborated, or generally unobservable inputs. Financial assets and liabilities carried at fair value will be classified and disclosed in one of the following three fair value hierarchy categories:

*Level 1:* Valuations for assets and liabilities traded in active markets from readily available pricing sources for market transactions involving identical assets or liabilities.

*Level 2:* Valuations for assets and liabilities traded in less-active dealer or broker markets. Valuations are obtained from third-party pricing services for identical or similar assets or liabilities.

*Level 3:* Valuations incorporate certain assumptions and projections in determining the fair value assigned to such assets or liabilities.

Commodity futures and exchange-traded commodity options contracts are reported at fair value, utilizing Level 1 inputs. For these contracts, the Company obtains fair value measurements from an independent pricing service. The fair value measurements consider observable data that may include dealer quotes and live-trading levels from the Chicago Board of Trade (“CBOT”) and New York Mercantile Exchange (“NYMEX”) markets.

The following table summarizes financial assets and financial liabilities measured at the approximate fair value on September 30, 2011, utilized to measure fair value (amounts in thousands):

| <u>At September 30, 2011</u>                           | <u>Total</u> | <u>Level 1</u> | <u>Level 2</u> | <u>Level 3</u> |
|--|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Liabilities—Derivative Financial Instruments . . . . . | \$832        | \$832          | \$—            | \$—            |
| Other Liabilities—Warrant Derivative . . . . .         | 182          | —              | —              | 182            |
| <u>At September 30, 2010</u>                           |              |                |                |                |
| Assets—Derivative Financial Instruments . . . . .      | \$314        | \$314          | \$—            | \$—            |
| Other Liabilities—Warrant Derivative . . . . .         | 474          | —              | —              | 474            |

The warrants issued contain a strike price adjustment feature, as described in Note 6. We calculated the fair value of the warrants using the Black-Scholes valuation model. During the year ended September 30, 2011, we recognized an unrealized gain of \$292,000 related to the change in the fair value of the warrant derivative liability.

The assumptions used in the Black-Scholes valuation model were as follows:

|                                   | <u>September 30,<br/>2011(1)</u> | <u>September 30,<br/>2010(2)</u> | <u>October 1,<br/>2009</u> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Market value . . . . .            | \$ 1.50                          | \$ 1.50                          | \$ 1.50                    |
| Exercise price . . . . .          | \$ 1.50                          | \$ 1.50                          | \$ 1.50                    |
| Expected volatility . . . . .     | 46.92%                           | 117.08%                          | 107.75%                    |
| Expected life (years) . . . . .   | 1.50                             | 2.00                             | 2.50                       |
| Risk-free interest rate . . . . . | 0.250%                           | 0.375%                           | 1.188%                     |
| Forfeiture rate . . . . .         | —                                | —                                | —                          |
| Dividend rate . . . . .           | —                                | —                                | —                          |

- (1) Market value at September 30, 2011 based on trading values of comparable competitors.
- (2) Market value based on units issued in fiscal 2010.

The following table reflects the activity for liabilities measured at fair value, using Level 3 inputs for the year ended September 30, (amounts in thousands):

|  | <u>2011</u>   | <u>2010</u>  |
|--|---------------|--------------|
| Beginning balance of warrant derivative as of October 1, . . . . .   | \$ 474        | \$—          |
| Initial recognition of warrant derivative on October 1, 2009 . . . . | —             | 489          |
| Unrealized gain related to the change in fair value . . . . .        | (292)         | (15)         |
| Ending balance as of September 30, . . . . .                         | <u>\$ 182</u> | <u>\$474</u> |

### ***Receivables***

Credit sales are made primarily to a few customers with no collateral required. Trade receivables are carried at original invoice amount less an estimate made for doubtful receivables based on a review of all outstanding amounts on a monthly basis. Management determines the allowance for doubtful accounts by regularly evaluating individual receivables and considering a customer's financial condition, credit history and current economic conditions. Receivables are written off if deemed uncollectible. Recoveries of receivables previously written off are recorded when received.

### ***Derivative Instruments/Due From Broker***

On occasion, the Company has entered into derivative contracts to hedge the Company's exposure to price risk related to forecasted corn purchases and forecasted ethanol sales. Accounting for derivative contracts requires that an entity recognize all derivatives as either assets or liabilities in the statement of financial position and measure those instruments at fair value. If certain conditions are met, a derivative may be specifically designated as (a) a hedge of the exposure to changes in the fair value of a recognized asset or liability or an unrecognized firm commitment, (b) a hedge of the exposure to variable cash flows of a forecasted transaction, or (c) a hedge of the foreign currency exposure of a net investment in a foreign operation, an unrecognized firm commitment, an available-for-sale security, or a foreign-currency-denominated forecasted transaction.

Although the Company believes its derivative positions are economic hedges, none have been designated as a hedge for accounting purposes and derivative positions are recorded on the balance sheet at their fair market value, with changes in fair value recognized in current period earnings.

In addition, certain derivative financial instruments that meet the criteria for derivative accounting treatment also qualify for a scope exception to derivative accounting, as they are considered normal purchase and sales. The availability of this exception is based on the assumption that the Company has the ability and it is probable to deliver or take delivery of the underlying item. Derivatives that are considered to be normal purchases and sales are exempt from derivative accounting treatment, and are accounted for under accrual accounting.

### ***Inventories***

Corn, chemicals, supplies, work in process, ethanol and distillers grains inventories are stated at the lower of weighted average cost or market.

### ***Property and Equipment***

Property and equipment is carried at cost less accumulated depreciation computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives:

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Office equipment .....  | 3-7 Years |
| Process equipment ..... | 10 Years  |
| Building .....          | 40 Years  |

Maintenance and repairs are charged to expense as incurred; major improvements and betterments are capitalized. Long-lived assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount on the asset may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognized when estimated undiscounted future cash flows from operations are less than the carrying value of the asset group. An impairment loss is measured by the amount by which the carrying value of the asset exceeds the estimated fair value on that date.

### ***Deferred Financing Costs***

The Company defers costs incurred to raise debt financing until the related debt is issued. The costs are amortized into interest expense using the effective interest method over the term of the related debt instruments. In March 2009 the Company wrote off \$4.9 million of deferred financing costs incurred on ABE South Dakota's 2007 financing due to ABE South Dakota being in default and the uncertainty in receiving future benefit from these fees.

### ***Deferred Income***

The Company recorded the net funds received from the Village of Fairmont Nebraska Tax Incremental Financing ("TIF") as deferred income and is amortizing \$673,000 annually against property tax expense over the life of the process equipment. ABE Fairmont has guaranteed the payment of the TIF bond obligations. The Company anticipates that its future property tax payments will be adequate to service the bonds. As of September 30, 2011, the outstanding principal balance of the bonds owed by the Village is \$5.6 million.

The estimated maturities of the TIF bonds at September 30, 2011 are as follows: (in thousands)

|                  | <u>Principal</u> |
|------------------|------------------|
| 2012 .....       | \$ 387           |
| 2013 .....       | 362              |
| 2014 .....       | 396              |
| 2015 .....       | 432              |
| 2016 .....       | 472              |
| Thereafter ..... | <u>3,536</u>     |
| Total debt ..... | <u>\$5,585</u>   |

### ***Revenue Recognition***

Ethanol revenue is recognized when product title and all risk of ownership is transferred to the customer as specified in the contractual agreements with the marketers. Revenue is recognized upon the release of the product for shipment. Revenue from the sale of co-products is recorded when title and all risk of ownership transfers to customers, which generally occurs at the time of shipment. Co-products are generally shipped free on board ("FOB") shipping point. Interest income is recognized as earned. In accordance with the Company's agreements for the marketing and sale of ethanol and related products, commissions due to the marketers are deducted from the gross sale price at the time of payment.

### ***Unit Based Compensation***

The Company uses the estimated market value at the time the units are granted to value those units granted to officers and directors. The Company records compensation cost on the straight line method over the vesting period. If the units vest upon achievement of a certain milestone, the Company recognizes the expense in the period in which the goal was met.

### ***Shipping Costs***

Effective January 1, 2010, ABE Fairmont changed its marketing relationship for ethanol and as a result of the terms of the new marketing agreement no longer records its ethanol sales net of freight cost. During the years ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, the Company recorded approximately \$28.0 and \$12.0 million, respectively, in freight cost from the sale of ethanol that would have been reflected as a reduction of sales revenues in periods prior to the change in marketers. The Company classifies shipping costs as a component of cost of goods sold in the statements of operations.



### ***Debt Restructuring Costs***

During the year ended September 30, 2010, ABE South Dakota entered into a troubled debt restructuring agreement with its lenders. See Note 5 for a description of the accounting treatment. ABE South Dakota incurred legal and professional services fees related to the restructuring of ABE South Dakota debt and has reclassified these costs from selling, general and administrative expenses for the years ending September 30, 2010 and 2009.

### ***Income (Loss) Per Unit***

Basic and diluted income per unit is computed using the weighted-average number of vested units outstanding during the period. Unvested units and unit appreciation rights are considered unit equivalents and are considered in the diluted income-per-unit computation, but have not been included in the computations of diluted income (loss) per unit as their effect would be anti-dilutive. Basic earnings and diluted earnings per unit data were computed as follows (in thousands except per unit data):

|  | <b>Year Ended<br/>September 30,</b> |                |                   |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
|  | <b>2011</b>                         | <b>2010</b>    | <b>2009</b>       |
| Numerator:   |                                     |                |                   |
| Net income (loss) for basic earnings per share . . . . .         | \$ 1,809                            | \$31,221       | \$(54,298)        |
| Increase in fair value of warrant derivative liability . . . . . | (292)                               | (15)           | —                 |
| Net income (loss) for diluted earnings per share . . .           | <u>1,517</u>                        | <u>31,206</u>  | <u>\$(54,298)</u> |
| Denominator:   |                                     |                |                   |
| Basic and diluted common shares outstanding . . . . .            | 24,710                              | 19,752         | 12,692            |
| Earnings per share basic . . . . .                               | <u>\$ 0.07</u>                      | <u>\$ 1.58</u> | <u>\$ (4.28)</u>  |
| Earnings per share diluted . . . . .                             | <u>\$ 0.06</u>                      | <u>\$ 1.58</u> | <u>\$ (4.28)</u>  |

### ***Segment Reporting***

Operating segments are defined as components of an enterprise for which separate financial information is available that is evaluated regularly by the chief operating decision maker in deciding how to allocate resources and in assessing performance. Based on the related business nature and expected financial results, the Company's plants are aggregated into one operating segment.

### ***Accounting Estimates***

Management uses estimates and assumptions in preparing these financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Those estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities, and the reported revenues and expenses. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### ***Income Taxes***

The Company has elected to be treated as a partnership for tax purposes and generally does not incur income taxes. Instead, the Company's earnings and losses are included in the income tax returns of the members. Therefore, no provision or liability for federal or state income taxes has been included in these financial statements. The Company files income tax returns in the U.S. federal and various state jurisdictions. The Company's federal income tax returns are open and subject to examination from the 2008 tax return year and forward. Various state income tax returns are generally open from the 2008 and later tax return years based on individual state statute of limitations.

## ***Risks and Uncertainties***

The ethanol industry is currently receiving an indirect benefit of the Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit ("VEETC") provided to gasoline blenders which is set to expire on December 31, 2011, after a one year extension was signed into law on December 17, 2010. This credit provides for a 45-cent a gallon tax credit for gasoline blenders and a 54-cent a gallon tariff on ethanol imports. Although the Renewable Fuels Standard still exists to maintain the demand for ethanol in the United States, the Company is uncertain of the potential impact that the elimination or reduction in the VEETC credit will have on the Company and the overall ethanol industry.

## **2. Inventories**

A summary of inventories is as follows (in thousands):

|                          | <b>September 30,<br/>2011</b> | <b>September 30,<br/>2010</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Corn .....               | \$ 4,889                      | \$ 3,127                      |
| Chemicals .....          | 1,280                         | 1,107                         |
| Work in process .....    | 3,610                         | 2,104                         |
| Ethanol .....            | 9,280                         | 5,427                         |
| Distillers grain .....   | 713                           | 419                           |
| Supplies and parts ..... | 2,334                         | 1,918                         |
| Total .....              | <u>\$22,106</u>               | <u>\$14,102</u>               |

## **3. Property and Equipment**

A summary of property and equipment is as follows (in thousands):

|                                   | <b>September 30,<br/>2011</b> | <b>September 30,<br/>2010</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Land .....                        | \$ 3,999                      | \$ 3,962                      |
| Buildings .....                   | 21,341                        | 21,341                        |
| Process equipment .....           | 221,020                       | 215,962                       |
| Office equipment .....            | 1,813                         | 1,356                         |
| Construction in process .....     | 260                           | 234                           |
|                                   | <u>248,433</u>                | <u>242,855</u>                |
| Accumulated depreciation .....    | <u>\$ (83,612)</u>            | <u>\$ (61,154)</u>            |
| Property and equipment, net ..... | <u>\$164,821</u>              | <u>\$181,701</u>              |

## **4. Notes Receivable-Related Party**

On June 30, 2011, the Company received a \$490,000 promissory note from Ethanol Capital Partners, LP-Series R, Ethanol Capital Partners LP-Series T, Ethanol Capital Partners LP-Series V, Ethanol Investment Partners, LLC and Tennessee Ethanol Partners, LP in connection with payments the Company made in connection with the settlement of arbitration brought by a former officer of the Company against the Company and related litigation brought against a director of the Company. The note is due on July 1, 2016 and accrues interest at the Prime Rate, adjusted annually. The note is secured by a pledge of 4.4 million units of membership in the Company owned by the entities listed above. Any proceeds from the disposition of these units as well as distributions from the Company to the owners of the units will first go to pay down the promissory note and accrued interest.

## 5. Debt

A summary of debt is as follows (in thousands, except percentages):

|   | September 30,<br>2011<br>Interest Rate | September 30,<br>2011 | September 30,<br>2010 |
|---|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>ABE Fairmont:</b>                                |  |                       |                       |
| Senior credit facility—variable .....               | 3.64%                                  | \$ 32,266             | \$ 45,050             |
| Senior credit facility—fixed .....                  | 7.53%                                  | 20,000                | 20,000                |
| Seasonal line .....                                 | 3.35%                                  | —                     | —                     |
| Subordinate exempt facilities bonds—fixed .....     | 6.75%                                  | 6,185                 | 7,000                 |
|   |  | <u>58,451</u>         | <u>72,050</u>         |
| <b>ABE South Dakota:</b>                            |  |                       |                       |
| Senior debt principal—variable .....                | 1.75%                                  | 77,052                | 81,352                |
| Restructuring fee .....                             | N/A                                    | 3,000                 | 3,000                 |
| Additional carrying value of restructured debt .... | N/A                                    | 9,453                 | 10,313                |
|   |  | <u>89,505</u>         | <u>94,665</u>         |
| Total outstanding .....                             |  | <u>\$147,956</u>      | <u>\$166,715</u>      |
| Additional carrying value of restructured debt .... | N/A                                    | <u>(9,453)</u>        | <u>(10,313)</u>       |
| Stated principal .....                              |  | <u>\$138,503</u>      | <u>\$156,402</u>      |

The estimated maturities of debt at September 30, as follows (in thousands):

|                  | Stated<br>Principal | Amortization of<br>Additional Carrying<br>Value of<br>Restructured Debt | Total            |
|------------------|---------------------|---|------------------|
| 2012 .....       | \$ 20,541           | \$1,162   | \$ 21,703        |
| 2013 .....       | 14,215              | 2,114   | 16,329           |
| 2014 .....       | 8,955               | 2,542   | 11,497           |
| 2015 .....       | 13,815              | 2,447   | 16,262           |
| 2016 .....       | 78,867              | 1,188   | 80,055           |
| Thereafter ..... | 2,110               | —   | 2,110            |
| Total debt ..... | <u>\$138,503</u>    | <u>\$9,453</u>  | <u>\$147,956</u> |

### *Senior Credit Facility for the Fairmont Plant*

ABE Fairmont has a senior credit facility with Farm Credit consisting of a term loan (“term loan A”), and a revolving term loan, known as term loan B. Farm Credit also extended a \$4.0 million revolving seasonal line for financing eligible grain inventory, which expires April 1, 2012, and a \$0.9 million revolving credit facility for financing third-party letters of credit which expires on February 1, 2012.

At September 30, 2011, ABE Fairmont had \$27.3 million outstanding on term loan A. ABE Fairmont must make quarterly principal installments of \$2.6 million through August 2013, followed by a final installment in an amount equal to the remaining unpaid term loan A principal balance in November 2013. For each fiscal year ending through September 30, 2013, ABE Fairmont must pay an additional amount equal to the lesser of \$8.0 million or 75% of its free cash flow. For the year ending September 30, 2011, the Company is required to pay \$6.3 million related to the free cash flow calculation which has been included in the current maturities of long term debt.

At September 30, 2011, ABE Fairmont had \$25.0 million outstanding on the revolving term loan B (“term loan B”). On the earlier of December 1, 2014 or six months following complete repayment of term loan A, ABE Fairmont will begin repayment of revolving term loan B in \$5.0 million semi-annual principal payments.

ABE Fairmont pays interest monthly at an annualized interest rate of 7.53% on \$20.0 million and a variable rate based on the 30-day LIBOR rate on the remaining outstanding debt.

ABE Fairmont had \$0 outstanding under the revolving seasonal line and had the full \$4.0 million available at September 30, 2011. Farm Credit also extended a \$0.9 million revolving credit facility for financing third-party letters of credit, which expires in February 2012. ABE Fairmont issued a letter of credit in connection with a rail-car lease, effectively reducing the financing available from the \$0.9 million revolving credit facility to \$0 at September 30, 2011.

#### ***Fillmore County Subordinate Exempt Facilities Revenue Bonds for the Fairmont plant***

ABE Fairmont has \$6.2 million of subordinate exempt facilities revenue bonds outstanding under a subordinated loan and trust agreement with the County of Fillmore, Nebraska and Wells Fargo, N.A. The loan agreement is collateralized by the Fairmont plant assets. ABE Fairmont's repayment of the loan and the security for the loan are subordinate to its senior credit facility. The loan requires semi-annual interest payments with annual principal payments of \$815,000 through December 2016, with the remainder due December 2017.

#### ***Senior Credit Agreement for the South Dakota Plants***

ABE South Dakota entered into an Amended and Restated Senior Credit Agreement (the "Senior Credit Agreement") effective as of June 18, 2010, which was accounted for under troubled debt restructuring rules. The Senior Credit Agreement was executed among ABE South Dakota, the lenders from time to time party thereto, and WestLB AG, New York Branch, as Administrative Agent and Collateral Agent. The Senior Credit Agreement converted the outstanding principal amount of the loans and certain other amounts under interest rate protection agreements to a senior term loan in an aggregate principal amount equal to \$84.4 million. The interest accrued on outstanding term and working capital loans under the previous credit agreement were reduced to zero. ABE South Dakota agreed to pay a \$3.0 million restructuring fee to the lender due at the earlier of March 31, 2016 and the date on which the loans are repaid in full. ABE South Dakota recorded the restructuring fee as a long-term, non-interest bearing debt on its consolidated balance sheets. See Effect of Restructuring below.

The principal amount of the term loan facility is payable in equal quarterly payments of \$750,000 which began on June 30, 2010, with the remaining principal amount fully due and payable on March 31, 2016.

ABE South Dakota has the option to select the interest rate on the senior term loan between base rate and euro-dollar rates for maturities of one to six months. Base rate loans bear interest at the administrative agent's base rate plus an applicable margin of 0.50%, increasing to 2% on June 16, 2012, and increasing to 3.0% on June 16, 2013. Euro-dollar loans bear interest at LIBOR plus the applicable margin of 1.5%, increasing to 3.0% on June 16, 2012, and increasing to 4.0% on June 16, 2013. As of September 30, 2011, ABE South Dakota had selected the LIBOR plus 1.5% rate for a period of three months.

ABE South Dakota's obligations under the Senior Credit Agreement are secured by a first-priority security interest in the equity and assets of ABE South Dakota.

ABE South Dakota is allowed to make equity distributions (other than certain tax distributions) to ABE only upon ABE South Dakota meeting certain financial conditions and if there is no more than \$25 million of principal outstanding on the senior term loan. Loans outstanding under the Senior Credit Agreement are subject to mandatory prepayment in certain circumstances, including, but not limited to, mandatory prepayments based upon receipt of certain proceeds of asset sales, casualty proceeds, termination payments, and cash flows.

The Senior Credit Agreement and the related loan documentation include, among other terms and conditions, limitations (subject to specified exclusions) on ABE South Dakota's ability to make asset dispositions; merge or consolidate with or into another person or entity; create, incur, assume or be liable for indebtedness; create, incur or allow liens on any property or assets; make investments; declare or make specified

restricted payments or dividends; enter into new material agreements; modify or terminate material agreements; enter into transactions with affiliates; change its line of business; and establish bank accounts. Substantially all cash of ABE South Dakota is required to be deposited into special, segregated project accounts subject to security interests to secure obligations in connection with the Senior Credit Agreement. The Senior Credit Agreement contains customary events of default and also includes an event of default for defaults on other indebtedness by ABE South Dakota and certain changes of control.

#### ***Subordinate Solid Waste Facilities Revenue Bonds***

Effective June 18, 2010, in connection with the debt restructuring described above, ABE South Dakota paid \$2.25 million and the remaining \$601,000 of net funds in the restricted cash accounts in full satisfaction of the \$19.0 million bonds and accrued interest of \$1.5 million resulting in a gain on extinguishment of debt of \$17.7 million. The subordinated claimholders terminated all documents related to the Subordinated Solid Waste Facilities Revenue Bonds.

#### ***Effect of ABE South Dakota Debt Restructuring***

The following table summarizes the impact of restructured senior and subordinated debt, including the gain on extinguishment of subordinated Solid Waste Facilities Revenue Bonds and the deferred gain on the troubled debt restructured Senior Credit Agreement (dollars in thousands).

|  | <b>Subordinated<br/>Revenue<br/>Bonds</b> | <b>Senior<br/>Credit<br/>Facility</b> | <b>Total<br/>Debt<br/>Restructured</b> |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Principal balance .....                                  | \$ 19,000                                 | \$ 99,292                             | \$118,292                              |
| Accrued interest .....                                   | 1,511                                     | 14,518                                | 16,029                                 |
| <b>Balance prior to restructuring .....</b>              | <b>\$ 20,511</b>                          | <b>\$113,810</b>                      | <b>\$134,321</b>                       |
| <b>Restructuring transactions:</b>                       |   |                                       |  |
| Settlement payments .....                                | (2,250)                                   | (15,000)                              | (17,250)                               |
| Settlement interest payments .....                       | (601)                                     | (963)                                 | (1,564)                                |
| Interest forgiven .....                                  | —   | (13,555)                              | (13,555)                               |
| Restructuring fee .....                                  | —   | 3,000                                 | 3,000                                  |
| Gain on extinguishment .....                             | (17,660)                                  | —                                     | (17,660)                               |
| <b>Balance after restructuring .....</b>                 | <b>\$ —</b>                               | <b>\$ 87,292</b>                      | <b>\$ 87,292</b>                       |
| Principal payments subsequent to restructuring .....     | —   | (7,240)                               | (7,240)                                |
| <b>Stated balance, principal—September 30, 2011 ....</b> | <b>\$ —</b>                               | <b>\$ 80,052</b>                      | <b>\$ 80,052</b>                       |

Since the future maximum undiscounted cash payments on the amended and restated senior credit facility (including principal, interest and the restructuring fee) exceed the adjusted carrying value, no gain for the forgiven interest was recorded, the carrying value was not adjusted and the modification of terms will be accounted for on a prospective basis, via a new effective interest calculation, amortized over the life of the note, offsetting interest expense. Based on the treatment of the troubled debt restructuring which will result in the additional carrying value being amortized as a reduction in interest expense over the term of the loan, the Company's effective interest rate over the term of the restructuring note agreement is approximately 0.26% over LIBOR (0.64% at September 30, 2011).

## **6. Members' Equity**

### ***Private Offering***

In October 2009, the Company completed a private offering in which it raised \$7.4 million in net proceeds from the issuance of 5,164,218 units. The Company received net proceeds of \$4.7 million from the issuance of

3,333,333 units to Hawkeye Energy Holdings, LLC, and \$1.4 million from 971,003 units which were subscribed for by certain accredited investors prior to September 30, 2009. Subsequent to September 30, 2009, the Company received an additional \$1.3 million in net proceeds from the issuance of 859,882 units.

In June 2010, the Company completed a private offering in which it issued 6,900,000 membership units of the Company at a price of \$1.50 per unit for an aggregate purchase price of \$10.4 million. The net proceeds from the private placement, after deducting offering expenses, were used to contribute \$10.0 million in cash to ABE South Dakota required by the terms of the debt restructuring.

### ***Employment Agreements***

The Company previously issued 70,000 restricted units to employees in connection with employment agreements of which 21,000 were subsequently forfeited. At September 30, 2011, the Company had a total of 4,000 unvested units issued. Each of the remaining awards vests 50% each year. The Company recorded related compensation expense (benefit) net of recoveries from forfeitures of \$46,000, \$46,000 and \$215,000 in the years ended September 30, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively, and expects to record an additional \$7,000 of compensation expense over the next two years. Each employee has put rights to sell up to 40% of the units vesting to the Company for the then current market price to cover the related tax requirements of the individual officers. In the year ended September 30, 2011, two employees were eligible to exercise their put rights for the total sale of 2,000 units at \$1.50 per unit.

In May 2011, the Company granted its Chief Executive Officer an award of unit appreciation rights with tandem nonqualified unit options. The agreement gives the officer the option to purchase up to 150,000 units in three tranches at prices ranging from \$1.50 to \$4.50 until May 2021, and under certain circumstances, to exchange the option for a cash payment equal to the appreciation on the value of the units over the exercise price. Each tranche vests at 10,000 units per year if the officer remains employed on May 11 of each year between 2012 and 2016. The units are contingently exercisable only under certain limited circumstances, including a change in control, and therefore the Company is not recognizing compensation expense related to the awards until such time that it is probable that these defined circumstances are probable of occurring.

### ***Warrants***

In October 2009, the Company issued 532,671 warrants to PJC Capital LLC, to purchase units of the Company. The warrants have an exercise price of \$1.50 per unit and expire in October 2014. The warrants contain a strike price adjustment feature, which, upon the adoption of accounting guidance related to embedded features of equity-linked financial instruments on October 1, 2009, resulted in the instruments no longer being considered indexed to the Company's own units. Accordingly, on October 1, 2009, the Company reclassified \$489,000 from equity to a liability representing the fair value of the warrants, based on \$.92 per warrant, as calculated using the Black – Scholes valuation model. During the years ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, the liability was adjusted for the change in fair value of the warrants, and the Company recorded an unrealized gain of \$292,000 and \$15,000, respectively. A liability of \$182,000 and \$474,000 related to the warrants is included in other liabilities in the consolidated balance sheet as of September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

### ***Board Representation and Voting Agreement***

The Company, certain directors of the Company, South Dakota Wheat Growers Association, CEC and Hawkeye have each executed a voting agreement (the "Voting Agreement"). The Voting Agreement requires the parties to (a) nominate for election to the board two designees of Hawkeye, two designees of CEC and the Chief Executive Officer of the Company, (b) recommend to the members the election of each of the designees, (c) vote all units of the Company they beneficially own or otherwise control to elect each of the designees to the board, (d) not take any action that would result in the removal of any of the designees from the board or to increase the size of the board to more than nine members, and (e) not grant a proxy with respect to any units that is inconsistent with the parties' obligations under the Voting Agreement. At October 31, 2011, the parties to the Voting Agreement held in the aggregate approximately 57% of the outstanding units of the Company.

### ***Deemed Distributions***

In connection with the annual income tax return in Nebraska, the Company was required to remit withholding tax of approximately \$27,000 relating to unit holders who were not residents of Nebraska. Pursuant to the terms of the Operating Agreement, withholding taxes are treated as distributions and reduce Members' Equity.

## **7. Lease Commitments and Contingencies**

### ***Lease Commitments***

The Company leases various rail cars, equipment and an office facility under operating lease agreements with the following approximate future minimum rental commitments for the years ended September 30 (in thousands):

|                  | <b>Minimum<br/>Rental<br/>Commitments</b> |
|------------------|---|
| 2012 .....       | \$ 5,526                                  |
| 2013 .....       | 3,274                                     |
| 2014 .....       | 2,316                                     |
| 2015 .....       | 2,162                                     |
| 2016 .....       | 2,128                                     |
| Thereafter ..... | 9,435                                     |
|                  | <u>\$24,841</u>                           |

The Company recognized rent expense related to the above leases of approximately \$5.2 million, \$3.2 million, and \$5.7 million for the years ended September 30, 2011, 2010, and 2009, respectively.

## **8. Major Customers**

The Company has entered into Exclusive Ethanol Marketing Agreements with Hawkeye Gold to sell substantially all of its ethanol. ABE Fairmont executed an Exclusive Ethanol Marketing Agreement with Hawkeye Gold which became effective on January 1, 2010. ABE South Dakota executed Exclusive Ethanol Marketing Agreements with Hawkeye Gold which became effective October 1, 2010. Prior to signing these agreements, ABE's ethanol was marketed by Gaviolon. Prior to January 2011, Hawkeye Gold was an affiliate of Hawkeye, a 34% owner of the Company's membership units. Hawkeye sold Hawkeye Gold in January 2011, but as part of the sale price will receive continuing royalty payments from Hawkeye Gold related to 2011 and 2012 revenues from legacy customers, including the Company. The initial term of the two agreements expire on April 30, 2013, and provide for automatic renewal for successive 18 month terms unless either party provides written notice of nonrenewal at least 180 days prior to the end of any term.

ABE Fairmont is currently self-marketing the distillers grains it produces. ABE South Dakota is party to a co-product marketing agreement with Dakotaland Feeds, LLC ("Dakotaland Feeds"), whereby Dakotaland Feeds markets the local sale of distillers grains produced at the ABE South Dakota Huron plant to third parties for an agreed upon commission. The Company currently has an agreement with Hawkeye Gold to market the distillers grains produced at the ABE South Dakota Aberdeen plants, effective on October 1, 2010.

Sales and receivables from the Company's major customers were as follows (in thousands):

|   | September 30,<br>2011 | September 30,<br>2010 | September 30,<br>2009 |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Hawkeye Gold—Ethanol and Distiller Grains</b>                        |                       |                       |                       |
| Twelve months revenues (Since January 1, 2010 for prior year) . . . . . | \$494,600             | \$146,180             | \$ —                  |
| Receivable balance at period end . . . . .                              | 10,780                | 8,406                 | —                     |
| <b>Gavilon—Ethanol</b>  |                       |                       |                       |
| Twelve months revenues . . . . .  | \$ —                  | \$194,737             | \$289,139             |
| Receivable balance at period end . . . . .                              | —                     | 4,275                 | 8,480                 |
| <b>Dakotaland—ABE South Dakota Distillers Grains</b>                    |                       |                       |                       |
| Twelve months revenues . . . . .  | \$ 13,494             | \$ 11,834             | \$ 17,428             |
| Receivable balance at period end . . . . .                              | 592                   | 421                   | 379                   |

## 9. Risk Management

The Company is exposed to a variety of market risks, including the effects of changes in commodity prices and interest rates. These financial exposures are monitored and managed by the Company as an integral part of its overall risk management program. The Company's risk management program seeks to reduce the potentially adverse effects that the volatility of these markets may have on its current and future operating results. To reduce these effects, the Company generally attempts to fix corn purchase prices and related sale prices of ethanol and distillers grains, with forward purchase and sale contracts to lock in future operating margins. In addition to entering into contracts to both purchase 15.0 million bushels of corn and sell 18.3 million gallons of ethanol in which the basis or futures price was not locked, the Company had entered into the following fixed price forward contracts at September 30, 2011 (in thousands):

| Commodity                   |                    | Quantity       | Amount   | Period Covered |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------|----------------|
| Corn . . . . .              | Purchase Contracts | 5,785 bushels  | \$40,027 | December 2011  |
| Natural gas . . . . .       | Purchase Contracts | 642 btus       | 2,708    | November 2011  |
| Ethanol . . . . .           | Sale Contracts     | 23,681 gallons | 63,208   | December 2011  |
| Distillers grains . . . . . | Sale Contracts     | 67 tons        | 13,125   | December 2011  |
| Corn oil . . . . .          | Sale Contracts     | 2,358 pounds   | 1,030    | November 2011  |

Unrealized gains and losses on forward contracts, in which delivery has not occurred, are deemed "normal purchases and normal sales," and, therefore are not marked to market in the financial statements.

When forward contracts are not available at competitive rates, the Company may engage in hedging activities using exchange traded futures contracts, OTC futures options or OTC swap agreements. Changes in market price of ethanol related hedging activities are reflected in revenues and changes in market price of corn related items are reflected in cost of goods sold. The following table represents the approximate amount of realized and unrealized gains (losses) and changes in fair value recognized in earnings on commodity contracts for the years ended September 30, 2011, 2010, and 2009 and the fair value of futures contracts as of September 30, 2011 and 2010 (in thousands):

|  | <u>Income Statement<br/>Classification</u> | <u>Realized<br/>Gain (Loss)</u> | <u>Unrealized<br/>Gain (Loss)</u> | <u>Total<br/>Gain (Loss)</u> |
|--|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2011 . . . . .   | Cost of Goods Sold                         | \$ 89                           | \$(832)                           | \$ (743)                     |
| 2010 . . . . .   | Cost of Goods Sold                         | (323)                           | 274                               | (49)                         |
| 2009 . . . . .   | Cost of Goods Sold                         | (3,158)                         | —                                 | (3,158)                      |
|  | <u>Balance Sheet<br/>Classification</u>    | <u>September 30,<br/>2011</u>   | <u>September 30,<br/>2010</u>     |                              |
| Derivative financial instrument—futures contract . . . . . | Current Assets                             | \$—                             | \$314                             |                              |
| Derivative financial instrument—futures contract . . . . . | Current Liability                          | 832                             | —                                 |                              |



## **10. Employee Benefit Plan**

The Company sponsors a 401(k) plan for eligible employees who are at least 21 years of age. Eligible employees may make elective deferral contributions to the plan. The Company's matching contribution is 100% of the employee's elective deferrals, not to exceed 5% of the employee's eligible wages. The Company contributed approximately \$322,000, \$257,000, and \$264,000 to the plan in the years ended September 30, 2011, 2010, and 2009, respectively.

## **11. Related Party Transactions**

### ***Corn purchases from directors***

The Company purchased \$43,000, \$306,000, and \$525,000 of corn for the operation of the Nebraska plant during the years ended September 30, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively, from several of the Company's directors and entities associated with the directors.

### ***Grain Purchases from South Dakota Wheat Growers Association (SDWG).***

The Company purchased \$184.7 million, \$101.8 million and \$107.9 million of corn from SDWG in the years ended September 30, 2011, 2010 and 2009 pursuant to a grain origination agreement, which covers all corn purchases in South Dakota. SDWG owns 5% of the Company's outstanding units.

## **12. Arbitration Settlement**

On June 30, 2011, the Company resolved all open issues related to arbitration brought by a former officer against the Company, and litigation brought by the former officer against a director of the Company. The Company has recognized an expense relating to this arbitration of approximately \$3.0 million for the year ended September 30, 2011. In addition, the Company incurred legal fees of approximately \$0.8 million for the year ended September 30, 2011 relating to this matter.

### 13. Quarterly Financial Data (Unaudited)

The following table presents summarized quarterly financial data for the years ended September 30, 2011, 2010, and 2009. Dollars in thousands, except per unit amounts:

| <u>Year Ended September 30, 2011</u>        | <u>1st<br/>Quarter</u>     | <u>2nd<br/>Quarter</u>     | <u>3rd<br/>Quarter</u>     | <u>4th<br/>Quarter</u>     |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Total revenues .....                        | \$116,516                  | \$152,812                  | \$154,848                  | \$147,570                  |
| Gross profit .....                          | 6,102                      | 4,812                      | 1,478                      | 1,850                      |
| Net income (loss) .....                     | 3,167                      | 736                        | (1,764)                    | (330)                      |
| Basic income (loss) per common unit .....   | \$ 0.13                    | \$ 0.03                    | \$ (0.07)                  | \$ (0.02)                  |
| Diluted income (loss) per common unit ..... | \$ 0.13                    | \$ 0.03                    | \$ (0.08)                  | \$ (0.02)                  |
| <br><u>Year Ended September 30, 2010</u>    | <br><u>1st<br/>Quarter</u> | <br><u>2nd<br/>Quarter</u> | <br><u>3rd<br/>Quarter</u> | <br><u>4th<br/>Quarter</u> |
| Total revenues .....                        | \$ 96,256                  | \$ 98,741                  | \$ 90,337                  | \$ 95,245                  |
| Gross profit .....                          | 12,128                     | 10,542                     | 4,144                      | 6,571                      |
| Net income .....                            | 6,154                      | 5,106                      | 16,474(1)                  | 3,487                      |
| Basic income per common unit .....          | \$ 0.35                    | \$ 0.29                    | \$ 0.88                    | \$ 0.18                    |
| Diluted income per common unit .....        | \$ 0.35                    | \$ 0.28                    | \$ 0.88                    | \$ 0.18                    |
| <br><u>Year Ended September 30, 2009</u>    | <br><u>1st<br/>Quarter</u> | <br><u>2nd<br/>Quarter</u> | <br><u>3rd<br/>Quarter</u> | <br><u>4th<br/>Quarter</u> |
| Total revenues .....                        | \$ 98,854                  | \$ 86,466                  | \$ 85,457                  | \$ 84,939                  |
| Gross profit (loss) .....                   | 76                         | (320)                      | 3,877                      | 6,363                      |
| Net income (loss) .....                     | (10,708)                   | (21,210)(2)                | (1,670)                    | (20,710)(3)                |
| Basic loss per common unit .....            | \$ (0.90)                  | \$ (1.68)                  | \$ (0.13)                  | \$ (1.52)                  |
| Diluted loss per common unit .....          | \$ (0.90)                  | \$ (1.68)                  | \$ (0.13)                  | \$ (1.52)                  |

(1) Includes a gain on extinguishment of debt of \$17,660

(2) Includes impairment charges of \$13,565

(3) Includes impairment charges of \$14,695

### 14. Parent Financial Statements

The following financial information represents the unconsolidated financial statements of Advanced BioEnergy, LLC ("ABE") as of September 30, 2011 and 2010, and the years ended September 30, 2011, 2010 and 2009. ABE's ability to receive distributions from its consolidated subsidiaries is based on the terms and conditions in their respective credit agreements. ABE Fairmont is able to pay a distribution to ABE annually based on its financial results for that fiscal year, subject to maintaining compliance with all loan covenants and the terms and conditions of its senior secured credit agreement. ABE South Dakota is allowed to make equity distributions (other than certain tax distributions) to ABE only upon ABE South Dakota meeting certain financial conditions and if there is no more than \$25 million of principal outstanding on the senior term loan. ABE Fairmont paid a distribution to ABE during fiscal 2011 of \$4.7 million, and none in the previous two fiscal years. There were no distributions from ABE South Dakota during the last three fiscal years.

**Advanced BioEnergy, LLC (Unconsolidated)**

**Balance Sheets**

|   | September 30,<br>2011   | September 30,<br>2010   |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|   | (Dollars in thousands)  |                         |
| ASSETS  |                         |                         |
| Current assets:   |                         |                         |
| Cash and cash equivalents . . . . .   | \$ 3,457                | \$ 1,065                |
| Other receivables . . . . .   | 524                     | 1,026                   |
| Prepaid expenses . . . . .  | 42                      | 11                      |
| <b>Total current assets</b> . . . . .   | <u>4,023</u>            | <u>2,102</u>            |
| <b>Property and equipment, net</b> . . . . .                                      | 666                     | 374                     |
| Other assets:   |                         |                         |
| Investments in consolidated subsidiaries . . . . .                                | 62,341                  | 63,262                  |
| Notes receivable-related party . . . . .  | 494                     | —                       |
| Other assets . . . . .  | 32                      | 7                       |
| <b>Total assets</b> . . . . .   | <u><u>\$ 67,556</u></u> | <u><u>\$ 65,745</u></u> |
| LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY   |                         |                         |
| Current liabilities:  |                         |                         |
| Accounts payable . . . . .  | \$ 1,083                | \$ 844                  |
| Accrued expenses . . . . .  | 509                     | 609                     |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b> . . . . .  | <u>1,592</u>            | <u>1,453</u>            |
| Other liabilities . . . . .   | 318                     | 474                     |
| <b>Total liabilities</b> . . . . .  | 1,910                   | 1,927                   |
| Members' equity:  |                         |                         |
| Members' capital, no par value, 24,714,180 units issued and outstanding . . . . . | 171,246                 | 171,200                 |
| Accumulated deficit . . . . .   | (105,600)               | (107,382)               |
| <b>Total members' equity</b> . . . . .  | <u>65,646</u>           | <u>63,818</u>           |
| <b>Total liabilities and members' equity</b> . . . . .                            | <u><u>\$ 67,556</u></u> | <u><u>\$ 65,745</u></u> |

**Advanced BioEnergy, LLC (Unconsolidated)**  
**Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income (Loss)**

|  | Years Ended            |                       |                       |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|  | September 30,<br>2011  | September 30,<br>2010 | September 30,<br>2009 |
|  | (Dollars in thousands) |                       |                       |
| Equity in earnings (losses) of consolidated subsidiaries ..... | 3,848                  | 30,573                | (54,918)              |
| Management fee income from subsidiaries .....                  | 4,154                  | 4,403                 | 4,580                 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses .....             | (3,260)                | (3,217)               | (5,115)               |
| Arbitration settlement expense .....                           | (3,791)                | (960)                 | —                     |
| <b>Operating income (loss) .....</b>                           | <b>951</b>             | <b>30,799</b>         | <b>(55,453)</b>       |
| Other income .....   | 542                    | 1,163                 | 2,954                 |
| Interest income (expense) .....                                | 316                    | (741)                 | (1,799)               |
| <b>Net income (loss) .....</b>                                 | <b>\$ 1,809</b>        | <b>\$31,221</b>       | <b>\$(54,298)</b>     |
| <b>Other comprehensive income:</b>                             |                        |                       |                       |
| Interest rate swap obligation .....                            | —                      | —                     | 1,786                 |
| <b>Comprehensive income (loss) .....</b>                       | <b>\$ 1,809</b>        | <b>\$31,221</b>       | <b>\$(52,512)</b>     |

**Advanced BioEnergy, LLC (Unconsolidated)**

**Statements of Cash Flows**

|   | Years Ended            |                       |                       |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|   | September 30,<br>2011  | September 30,<br>2010 | September 30,<br>2009 |
|   | (Dollars in thousands) |                       |                       |
| Cash flows from operating activities:                                   |                        |                       |                       |
| Net income (loss) .....   | \$ 1,809               | \$ 31,221             | \$(54,298)            |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to operating activities cash flows: |                        |                       |                       |
| Depreciation .....  | 111                    | 79                    | 124                   |
| Equity in earnings of consolidated subsidiaries .....                   | (3,848)                | (30,573)              | 54,918                |
| Distributions from subsidiaries .....                                   | 4,671                  | —                     | —                     |
| Impairment of long-lived assets .....                                   | —                      | —                     | 1,006                 |
| Gain on disposal of fixed assets .....                                  | (2)                    | —                     | —                     |
| Amortization of deferred revenue and rent .....                         | (19)                   | —                     | —                     |
| Unit compensation expense .....   | 46                     | 47                    | 197                   |
| Unrealized gain on derivative financial instruments .....               | (292)                  | (15)                  | —                     |
| Change in working capital components:                                   |                        |                       |                       |
| Accounts receivable .....   | 502                    | 1,819                 | (2,845)               |
| Prepaid expenses .....  | (31)                   | 8                     | 201                   |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses .....                             | 139                    | 280                   | (1,593)               |
| <b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities .....</b>        | <b>3,086</b>           | <b>2,866</b>          | <b>(2,290)</b>        |
| Cash flows from investing activities:                                   |                        |                       |                       |
| Purchase of property and equipment .....                                | (319)                  | (40)                  | (7)                   |
| Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets .....                            | 16                     | 116                   | 240                   |
| Issuance of notes receivable .....                                      | (494)                  | —                     | —                     |
| Change in other assets and liabilities .....                            | 130                    | —                     | 5                     |
| Equity contribution to subsidiary .....                                 | —                      | (12,250)              | —                     |
| Decrease (increase) in restricted cash .....                            | —                      | 5,747                 | (3,217)               |
| <b>Net cash used in investing activities .....</b>                      | <b>(667)</b>           | <b>(6,427)</b>        | <b>(2,979)</b>        |
| Cash flows from financing activities:                                   |                        |                       |                       |
| Payments on debt .....  | —                      | (9,269)               | (435)                 |
| Proceeds from issuance of membership units and subscribed units .....   | —                      | 11,640                | 6,457                 |
| Distribution-state tax withholding .....                                | (27)                   | —                     | —                     |
| Offering costs paid .....   | —                      | (387)                 | (249)                 |
| Repurchase of units .....   | —                      | (3)                   | (18)                  |
| <b>Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities .....</b>        | <b>(27)</b>            | <b>1,981</b>          | <b>5,755</b>          |
| <b>Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents .....</b>       | <b>2,392</b>           | <b>(1,580)</b>        | <b>486</b>            |
| Beginning cash and cash equivalents .....                               | 1,065                  | 2,645                 | 2,159                 |
| Ending cash and cash equivalents .....                                  | <u>\$ 3,457</u>        | <u>\$ 1,065</u>       | <u>\$ 2,645</u>       |

**ITEM 9. *CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE***

None.

**ITEM 9A. *CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES***

**Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

As of the end of the period covered by this report, our management conducted an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our chief executive officer and chief financial officer of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934). Based on this evaluation, the officer serving as both our chief executive officer and chief financial officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed by our Company in reports that we file or submit under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in Commission rules and forms.

**Management's Annual Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over our financial reporting. Internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance to our management and board of directors regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Our internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (i) pertain to the maintenance of records that in reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflect our transactions and dispositions of our assets; (ii) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary for preparation of our financial statements; (iii) provide reasonable assurance that receipts and expenditures of Company assets are made in accordance with management authorization; and (iv) provide reasonable assurance that unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of Company assets that could have a material effect on our financial statements would be prevented or detected on a timely basis.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because changes in conditions may occur or the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Management assessed the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of September 30, 2010. This assessment is based on the criteria for effective internal control described in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on its assessment, management concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of September 30, 2011.

This annual report does not include an attestation report of our registered public accounting firm regarding internal control over financial reporting. Management's report was not subject to attestation by our registered public accounting firm pursuant to rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission that permit us to provide only management's report in this annual report.

**Changes in Internal Controls over Financial Reporting**

Our management, with the participation of the officer serving as both our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, performed an evaluation as to whether any change in the internal controls over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15 and 15d-15 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) occurred during

our fourth fiscal quarter. Based on that evaluation, the chief executive officer and chief financial officer concluded that no change occurred in the internal controls over financial reporting during the period covered by this report that materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal controls over financial reporting.

**ITEM 9B. *OTHER INFORMATION***

None.

### **PART III**

#### **ITEM 10. *DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE***

Incorporated herein by reference is the information appearing under the headings “Election of Directors” and “Company Governance” in the Company’s proxy statement for the Company’s 2012 Annual Meeting of Members (the “Proxy Statement”) to be filed no later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year ended September 30, 2011. See also Part I hereof under the heading “Item X. Executive Officers of the Registrant”.

There were no material changes to the procedures by which unitholders may recommend nominees to the board of directors since our last report.

Incorporated herein by reference is the information appearing under the heading “Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance” in the Proxy Statement.

The Company has adopted a code of ethics that applies to its principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions. The Company has posted this Code of Business Conduct and Ethics on the Advanced Bioenergy website at [www.advancedbioenergy.com](http://www.advancedbioenergy.com).

#### **ITEM 11. *EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION***

Incorporated herein by reference is the information appearing under the heading “Executive Compensation” in the Proxy Statement.

#### **ITEM 12. *SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED UNITHOLDER MATTERS***

Incorporated herein by reference is the information appearing under the heading “Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners” in the 2012 Statement.

#### **ITEM 13. *CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE***

Incorporated herein by reference is the information appearing under the heading “Corporate Governance” in the Proxy Statement.

#### **ITEM 14. *PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES***

Incorporated herein by reference is the information appearing under the heading “Ratification of the Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm” in the Proxy Statement.



## **PART IV**

### **ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES**

(1) *Financial Statements*—An index to our financial statements is located above on page 43 of this report. The financial statements appear on page 45 through page 49 of this report.

(2) *Exhibits*—The exhibits filed herewith are set forth on the Exhibit Index filed as a part of this report beginning immediately following the signatures.

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, on December 28, 2011.

ADVANCED BIOENERGY, LLC  
(Registrant)

By:           /s/ RICHARD R. PETERSON            
**Richard R. Peterson**  
*Chief Executive Officer, President,  
Chief Financial Officer and Director*

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities indicated on December 28, 2011.

| <u>Name</u>   | <u>Title</u>  |
|---|---|
| /s/ RICHARD R. PETERSON<br><b>Richard R. Peterson</b>   | Chief Executive Officer, President, Chief Financial<br>Officer and Director<br>(Principal Executive, Financial and Accounting<br>Officer) |
| *<br><b>Scott A. Brittenham</b>   | Director, Chairman  |
| *<br><b>John E. Lovegrove</b>   | Director  |
| *<br><b>Bryan A. Netsch</b>   | Director  |
| *<br><b>Joshua M. Nelson</b>  | Director  |
| *<br><b>Troy L. Otte</b>  | Director  |
| *<br><b>Bruce L. Rastetter</b>  | Director  |
| *<br><b>Jonathan K. Henness</b>   | Director  |
| /s/ RICHARD R. PETERSON<br><b>Richard R. Peterson,</b><br>as power of attorney, where designated by * |   |

## EXHIBIT INDEX

|       |   |                               |
|-------|---|-------------------------------|
| 2.1   | Partnership Interest Purchase Agreement with ABE SOUTH DAKOTA Acquisition, LLC, Aventine Renewable Energy, Inc., Dakota Fuels, Inc., South Dakota Wheat Growers Association, Heartland Producers, LLC, and Heartland Grain Fuels, L.P. dated as of November 7, 2006 | Incorporated by reference(1)  |
| 2.2   | Partnership Interest and Stock Purchase Agreement with ABE SOUTH DAKOTA Acquisition, LLC, Heartland Grain Fuels, L.P, Heartland Producers, LLC, South Dakota Wheat Growers Association and Dakota Fuels, Inc. dated as of November 7, 2006                          | Incorporated by reference(2)  |
| 3.1   | Certificate of Formation  | Incorporated by reference(3)  |
| 3.2   | Fourth Amended and Restated Operating Agreement of the Registrant, effective as of May 11, 2010   | Incorporated by reference(4)  |
| 4.1   | Form of Certificate of Membership Units   | Incorporated by reference(5)  |
| 4.2   | Warrant to Purchase Units of Advanced BioEnergy, LLC dated August 28, 2009  | Incorporated by reference(6)  |
| 4.3   | Investor Rights Agreement with South Dakota Wheat Growers Association dated as of November 7, 2006  | Incorporated by reference(7)  |
| 4.3.1 | Investor Rights Agreement with South Dakota Wheat Growers Association dated as of November 7, 2006, as amended  | Incorporated by reference(8)  |
| 4.3.2 | Second Amendment to Investor Rights Agreement between Advanced BioEnergy LLC and South Dakota Wheat Growers Association dated as of August 28, 2009   | Incorporated by reference(9)  |
| 4.4   | Registration Rights Agreement with Ethanol Investment Partners, LLC dated June 25, 2007   | Incorporated by reference(10) |
| 4.4.1 | First Amendment to Registration Rights Agreement between Advanced BioEnergy, LLC and Ethanol Investment Partners dated as of August 28, 2009  | Incorporated by reference(11) |
| 4.5   | Registration Rights Agreement between Advanced BioEnergy, LLC, and Hawkeye Energy Holdings, LLC dated as of August 28, 2009   | Incorporated by reference(12) |
| 10.1  | Promissory Note (Operating Loan) and Loan Agreement with Farm Credit Services of America, PCA dated February 13, 2006   | Incorporated by reference(13) |
| 10.2  | Master Loan Agreement effective as of April 7, 2011 between Farm Credit Services of America, FLCA and ABE Fairmont, LLC   | Incorporated by reference(14) |
| 10.3  | Revolving Credit Supplement, Letters of Credit dated as of April 7, 2011 between Farm Credit Services of America, FLCA and ABE Fairmont, LLC  | Incorporated by reference(15) |
| 10.4  | Monitored Revolving Credit Supplement entered into as of April 7, 2011 between Farm Credit Services of America, FLCA and ABE Fairmont, LLC  | Incorporated by reference(16) |
| 10.5  | Construction and Revolving Term Loan Supplement effective as of December 24, 2008 between Farm Credit Services of America, FLCA and ABE Fairmont, LLC   | Incorporated by reference(17) |
| 10.6  | Multitple Advance Term Loan Supplement between Farm Credit Services of America, FLCA and ABE Fairmont, LLC dated April 7, 2011  | Incorporated by reference(18) |

|         |  |                               |
|---------|--|-------------------------------|
| 10.7    | Loan and Trust Agreement with the County of Fillmore, State of Nebraska and Wells Fargo N.A. dated April 1, 2006   | Incorporated by reference(19) |
| 10.8    | Promissory Note issued to the County of Fillmore, State of Nebraska dated April 27, 2006   | Incorporated by reference(20) |
| 10.9    | Subordinate Deed of Trust and Construction Security Agreement with Wells Fargo Bank dated April 27, 2006   | Incorporated by reference(21) |
| 10.10   | ICM License Agreement with ICM, Inc. dated March 13, 2006  | Incorporated by reference(22) |
| 10.11   | Contract for Electric Service with Perennial Public Power District dated April 25, 2006  | Incorporated by reference(23) |
| 10.12   | Agreement between Heartland Grain Fuels, LP and ICM, Inc. dated July 14, 2006  | Incorporated by reference(24) |
| 10.13   | South Dakota Grain Fuels, L.P. Agreement of Limited Partnership dated August 27, 1991  | Incorporated by reference(25) |
| 10.14   | Amendment to the Agreement of Limited Partnership of Heartland Grain Fuels, L.P. dated November 8, 2006  | Incorporated by reference(26) |
| 10.15   | Administrative Agency Agreement among Farm Credit Services of America, FLCA, CoBank, ACB and ABE Fairmont, LLC dated as of November 20, 2006   | Incorporated by reference(27) |
| 10.16   | Grain Origination Agreement between Heartland Grain Fuels, L.P. and South Dakota Wheat Growers Association dated November 8, 2006*   | Incorporated by reference(28) |
| 10.16.1 | Amendment to Grain Origination Agreement dated as of October 1, 2007 between Heartland Grain Fuels, L.P. and South Dakota Wheat Growers Association  | Incorporated by reference(29) |
| 10.17   | Settlement Agreement and Release between Advanced BioEnergy, LLC, certain ABE Parties described therein, Ethanol Investment Partners, LLC and Clean Energy Capital, LLC dated October 16, 2008   | Incorporated by reference(30) |
| 10.18   | Subscription Agreement dated as of August 21, 2009 between Advanced BioEnergy, LLC and Hawkeye Holding, LLC  | Incorporated by reference(31) |
| 10.19   | Side Letter dated as of August 21, 2009 executed by Advanced BioEnergy, LLC in favor of Hawkeye Energy Holdings, LLC   | Incorporated by reference(32) |
| 10.20   | Exclusive Ethanol Marketing Agreement by and among Hawkeye Gold, LLC and ABE Fairmont, LLC dated as of August 28, 2009   | Incorporated by reference(33) |
| 10.20.1 | Extension and Amendment to Ethanol Marketing Agreement between Hawkeye Gold, LLC and ABE Fairmont, LLC dated September 30, 2011  | Filed herewith                |
| 10.21   | Form of Director Indemnification Agreement   | Incorporated by reference(34) |
| 10.22   | Lock-Up and Voting Agreement dated as of March 31, 2010 (effective as of April 7, 2010) among Marshall Financial Group, LLC, Banco Santander, S.A., New York Branch, Farm Credit Bank of Texas, Coöperatieve Centrale Raiffeisen-Boerenleenbank B.A., “Rabobank Nederland”, New York Branch, KEB NY Financial Corp., Nordkap Bank AG, WestLB AG, New York Branch, Heartland Grain Fuels, L.P., Advanced BioEnergy, LLC and Oppenheimer Rochester National Municipals | Incorporated by reference(35) |

|         |   |                               |
|---------|---|-------------------------------|
| 10.23   | Backstop Commitment Agreement dated as of April 7, 2010 between Advanced BioEnergy, LLC and Hawkeye Company Holdings, LLC   | Incorporated by reference(36) |
| 10.24   | Exclusive Ethanol Marketing Agreement (Aberdeen, South Dakota plant) dated as of April 7, 2010 between Hawkeye Gold, LLC and Heartland Grain Fuels, L.P.  | Incorporated by reference(37) |
| 10.24.1 | Extension and Amendment to Ethanol Marketing Agreement (Aberdeen, SD plant) between Hawkeye Gold, LLC and ABE South Dakota, LLC dated September 30, 2011  | Filed herewith                |
| 10.25   | Distillers Grains Marketing Agreement (Aberdeen, South Dakota plant) dated as of April 7, 2010 between Hawkeye Gold, LLC and Heartland Grain Fuels, L.P.  | Incorporated by reference(38) |
| 10.25.1 | Extension and Amendment to Ethanol Marketing Agreement (Huron, SD plant) between Hawkeye Gold, LLC and ABE South Dakota, LLC dated September 30, 2011   | Filed herewith                |
| 10.26   | Exclusive Ethanol Marketing Agreement (Huron, South Dakota plant) dated as of April 7, 2010 between Hawkeye Gold, LLC and Heartland Grain Fuels, L.P.   | Incorporated by reference(39) |
| 10.27   | Voting Agreement among Advanced BioEnergy, LLC, Hawkeye Energy Holdings, LLC Ethanol Investment Partners, LLC South Dakota Wheat Growers Association, a South Dakota cooperative, and certain directors of the Company dated as of August 28, 2009.   | Incorporated by reference(40) |
| 10.27.1 | Amendment No. 1 to Voting Agreement dated as of April 7, 2010 among Advanced BioEnergy, LLC, Hawkeye Energy Holdings, LLC, Ethanol Investment Partners, LLC, Ethanol Capital Partners, Series R, LP, Ethanol Capital Partners, Series T, LP, Tennessee Ethanol Partners, LP, South Dakota Wheat Growers Association and the directors of Advanced BioEnergy, LLC party thereto  | Incorporated by reference(41) |
| 10.28   | Restructuring Agreement dated as of June 16, 2010 among Advanced BioEnergy, LLC, ABE Heartland, LLC, ABE South Dakota, LLC, Dakota Fuels, Inc., the lenders referred to therein, WestLB AG, New York Branch, as Administrative Agent and Collateral Agent, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee of the Brown County, South Dakota Subordinate Solid Waste Facilities Revenue Bonds (Heartland Grain Fuels, L.P. Ethanol Plant Project) Series 2007A, Oppenheimer Rochester National Municipals, as the sole bondholder, and Brown County, South Dakota, as issuer of the subordinated bonds | Incorporated by reference(42) |
| 10.29   | Amended and Restated Senior Credit Agreement dated as of June 16, 2010 among ABE South Dakota, LLC, the lenders referred to therein and WestLB AG, New York Branch, as Administrative Agent and Collateral Agent  | Incorporated by reference(43) |
| 10.30   | Amended and Restated Accounts Agreement dated as of June 16, 2010 among ABE South Dakota, LLC, Amarillo National Bank, as the Accounts Bank and Securities Intermediary and WestLB AG, New York Branch, as Administrative Agent and Collateral Agent  | Incorporated by reference(44) |
| 10.31   | Second Amended and Restated Employment Agreement dated May 11, 2011 between Advanced BioEnergy, LLC and Richard Peterson +  | Incorporated by reference(45) |
| 10.32   | Award Agreement for Unit Appreciation Right with Tandem Nonqualified Unit Option dated May 11, 2011 between Advanced BioEnergy, LLC and Richard Peterson +  | Incorporated by reference(46) |
| 10.33   | Master Agreement dated as of June 30, 2011 between Advanced BioEnergy, LLC, Clean Energy Capital, LLC, and affiliated entities of Clean Energy Capital, LLC.  | Incorporated by reference(47) |

|         |  |                               |
|---------|--|-------------------------------|
| 10.33.1 | Promissory Note dated June 30, 2011, from affiliated entities of Clean Energy Capital, LLC to Advanced BioEnergy, LLC.   | Incorporated by reference(48) |
| 10.33.2 | Pledge Agreement dated June 30, 2011, from affiliated entities of Clean Energy Capital, LLC to Advanced BioEnergy, LLC   | Incorporated by reference(49) |
| 10.33.3 | Guarantee dated June 30, 2011 by Clean Energy Capital, LLC of Promissory Note from affiliated entities of Clean Energy Capital, LLC to Advanced BioEnergy, LLC.  | Incorporated by reference(50) |
| 21      | List of Subsidiaries of the Registrant   | Filed herewith                |
| 24      | Powers of Attorney   | Filed herewith                |
| 31.1    | Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification by Principal Executive Officer  | Filed herewith                |
| 31.2    | Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification by Principal Financial and Accounting Officer   | Filed herewith                |
| 32      | Section 1350 Certifications  | Filed herewith                |
| 101     | The following materials from Advanced BioEnergy's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2011, formatted in XBRL: (i) Consolidated Balance Sheets at September 30, 2011 and 2010 ; (ii) Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income (Loss) for the years ended September 30, 2011, 2010 and 2009; (iii) Consolidated Statements of Changes in Members' Equity for the years ended September 30, 2011, 2010 and 2009; (iv) Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended September 30, 2011, 2010 and 2009; and (v) Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements. | Filed herewith                |

\* Material has been omitted pursuant to a request for confidential treatment and these materials have been filed separately with the SEC.

+ Management compensatory plan/arrangement.

- (1) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on November 8, 2006 (File No. 333-125335).
- (2) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 2.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on November 8, 2006 (File No. 333-125335).
- (3) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form SB-2, filed on May 27, 2005 (File No. 333-125335).
- (4) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on May 13, 2010 (File No. 000-52421).
- (5) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form SB-2, filed on May 27, 2005 (File No. 333-125335).
- (6) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on September 3, 2009 (File No. 000-52421).
- (7) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on November 8, 2006 (File No. 333-125335).
- (8) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-QSB, filed on August 14, 2007 (File No. 000-52421).
- (9) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.5 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on September 3, 2009 (File No. 000-52421).
- (10) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-QSB, filed on August 14, 2007 (File No. 000-52421).
- (11) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.6 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on September 3, 2009 (File No. 000-52421).

- (12) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.4 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on September 3, 2009 (File No. 000-52421).
- (13) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-QSB, filed on May 15, 2006 (File No. 333-125335).
- (14) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, filed on May 16, 2011 (File No. 000-52421).
- (15) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, filed on May 16, 2011 (File No. 000-52421).
- (16) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, filed on May 16, 2011 (File No. 000-52421).
- (17) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on January 29, 2009 (File No. 000-52421).
- (18) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, filed on May 16, 2011 (File No. 000-52421).
- (19) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-QSB, filed on May 15, 2006 (File No. 333-125335).
- (20) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.7 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-QSB, filed on May 15, 2006 (File No. 333-125335).
- (21) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.8 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-QSB, filed on May 15, 2006 (File No. 333-125335).
- (22) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.10 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-QSB, filed on May 15, 2006 (File No. 333-125335).
- (23) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-QSB, filed on May 15, 2006 (File No. 333-125335).
- (24) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.24 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-KSB, filed on December 29, 2006 (File No. 333-125335).
- (25) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.30 to the Registrant's Amendment No. 2 to Registration Statement on Form SB-2, filed on December 20, 2006 (File No. 333-137299).
- (26) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.31 to the Registrant's Amendment No. 2 to Registration Statement on Form SB-2, filed on December 20, 2006 (File No. 333-137299).
- (27) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on November 29, 2006 (File No. 333-125335).
- (28) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.40 to the Registrant's Amendment No. 3 to Registration Statement on Form SB-2, filed on February 7, 2007 (File No. 333-137299).
- (29) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on October 15, 2007 (File No. 000-52421).
- (30) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on October 22, 2008 (File No. 000-52421).
- (31) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on August 26, 2009 (File No. 000-52421).
- (32) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on August 26, 2009 (File No. 000-52421).
- (33) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on September 3, 2009 (File No. 000-52421).
- (34) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on January 29, 2010 (File No. 000-52421).
- (35) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on April 8, 2010 (File No. 000-52421).
- (36) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on April 8, 2010 (File No. 000-52421).
- (37) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on April 8, 2010 (File No. 000-52421).

- (38) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on April 8, 2010 (File No. 000-52421).
- (39) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on April 8, 2010 (File No. 000-52421).
- (40) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on September 3, 2009 (File No. 000-52421).
- (41) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on April 8, 2010 (File No. 000-52421).
- (42) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on June 22, 2010 (File No. 000-52421).
- (43) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on June 22, 2010 (File No. 000-52421).
- (44) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on June 22, 2010 (File No. 000-52421).
- (45) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, filed on May 16, 2011 (File No. 000-52421).
- (46) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, filed on May 16, 2011 (File No. 000-52421).
- (47) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on July 7, 2011 (File No. 000-52421).
- (48) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on July 7, 2011 (File No. 000-52421).
- (49) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on July 7, 2011 (File No. 000-52421).
- (50) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on July 7, 2011 (File No. 000-52421).



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## Management

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Richard R. Peterson  
CEO



Christine Schumann  
VP of Finance



Tony Beam  
Plant Manager  
Fairmont, NE



Ty Weisendanger  
VP of Trading &  
Commodities



Mark Edstrom  
Corporate  
Controller



Larry Galero  
Plant Manager  
Aberdeen, SD



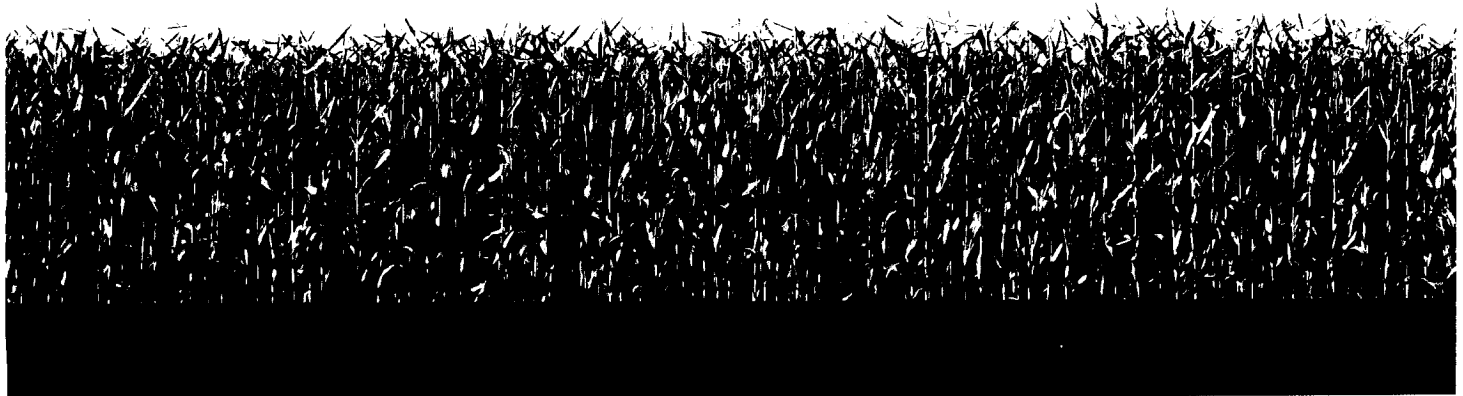
Grant Johanson  
VP of Operations



Ron Hansen  
Director of  
Commodities



Ken Peterson  
Plant Manager  
Huron, SD



## Board of Directors



Scott A. Brittenham  
Chairman  
Director since 2008



Bryan A. Netsch  
Director since 2011



Jonathan K. Henness  
Director since 2011



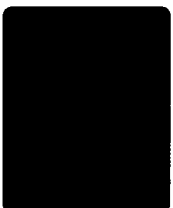
Tory L. Otte  
Director since 2005



John E. Lovegrove  
Director since 2005



Richard R. Peterson  
Director since 2009



Joshua M. Nelson  
Director since 2009



Bruce L. Rastetter  
Director since 2009



## Investor Information

**Annual Meeting:** The annual meeting of Advanced BioEnergy unitholders will be held in March 2012. The notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement are delivered to shareholders with this annual report. Please refer to the notice for meeting details. The meeting will be broadcast via webinar for those unable to attend in person, details on the registration process are contained in the Proxy statement.

**Company Updates:** Copies of the annual report (10-K), quarterly reports (10-Q), proxy, and other SEC filings are available on the Advanced BioEnergy website at [www.advancedbioenergy.com](http://www.advancedbioenergy.com) and click on the SEC filings tab.

**Independent Accounting Firm**  
McGladrey & Pullen LLP

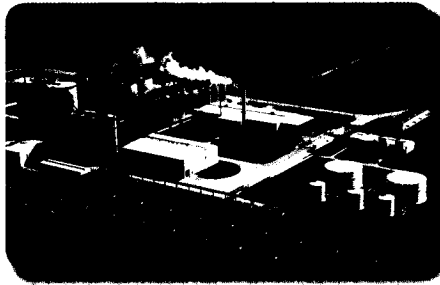
**Independent Legal Counsel**  
Lindquist & Vennum

**Unitholder Inquiries:** Updates to contact information and address, inquiries regarding transferring units, lost certificates, or other general questions, please contact Investor Relations in writing or by phone.





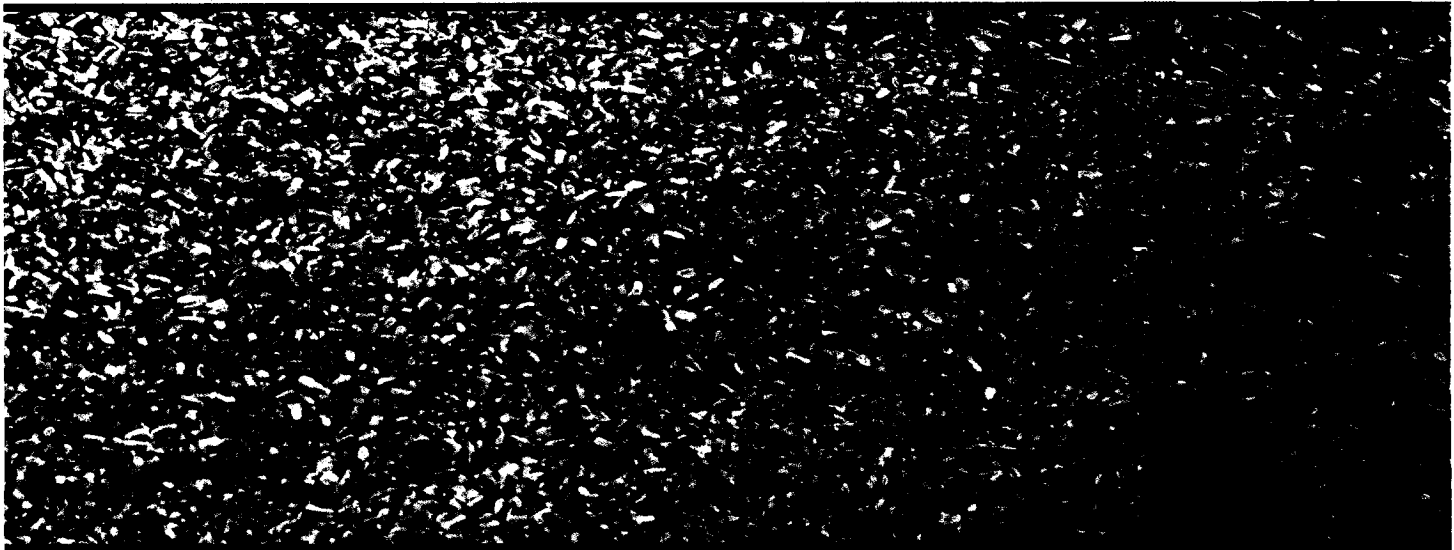
Aberdeen, SD



Fairmont, NE



Huron, SD



# ADVANCED BIOENERGY LLC

Investor Relations  
Advanced BioEnergy  
8000 Norman Center Drive, Suite 610  
Bloomington, MN 55437  
Phone: 866-794-5424  
Or 763-226-2701  
FAX: 763-226-2725  
Email: [info@advancedbioenergy.com](mailto:info@advancedbioenergy.com)